

again less... Doctor The rehabilitation of Boris Pasternak (below). Spectrum looks at the chances of Dr Zhivago being published at last in Russia

NGA faces weekend of decision after £525,000 fines

The National Graphical Association was fined a total of £525,000 yesterday for contempt of court in picketing the Stockport Messenger printing plant... Mr Justice Eastham said at the High Court in Manchester that the union's main objective was "to use its muscle to try to destroy the business" of Mr Shah

Industrial action on a national scale in the newspaper and printing industry came much closer after fines totalling £525,000 were imposed yesterday on the National Graphical Association for contempt of court orders made under the Government's trade union legislation... Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary for Trade and Industry and author of the 1982 Employment Act, yesterday urged caution

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the craft print union, said early yesterday after the breakdown of negotiations with Mr Selim "Eddie" Shah that a national strike beginning next week was now a "very real possibility" and further mass picketing at Warrington is also expected

Fleet Street will be the first to be hit by a conference during working hours called on Monday by fathers of the national newspaper NGA chapels (office branches) who were "outraged" by the latest fines

Fleet Street printers are already under a High Court injunction not to disrupt production over the Messenger closed shop dispute... TUC leaders, who are divided in their support for the NGA's continuing defiance of the Government's labour laws, have been called to an emergency meeting of the employment policy and organization committee on Monday night

Continued on back page, col 8

House Buyers Bill backed by Halifax

The Halifax Building Society, largest in the country, yesterday announced its support to the House Buyers Bill, which aims to end the solicitors' monopoly of conveyancing and introduce competition into the business of house purchase... Mr John Spalding, chief general manager of the Halifax, said that conveyancing law and practice had not adapted to meet the needs of today's home-owning society

Tass warns Nato about backing US

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Union yesterday warned West European governments of possible "consequences" of backing a US foreign policy that has "already led to a severe cooling of the political climate in the world" and "exerts a destructive effect on the whole system of international relations"...

A TV victory - and a snub by Heseltine

Mr Michael Heseltine ended his week-long battle with ITV over the film The Day After with one immediate victory and a damaging breach with the Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday... Mr Heseltine cancelled his TV-am appearance because of a policy not to appear on a platform with any CND figure



To the rescue: Helicopters waiting to winch passengers from The Antrim Princess (top) and unloading some of them at Larne, co Antrim, (above)

Helicopters rescue 153 people as gale lashes ships

Eight helicopters airlifted 153 passengers and crew to safety yesterday in two sea rescues during gales off the coast of Northern Ireland... The helicopter winched passengers up from the deck in pairs, but it took an hour to lift everyone from the stricken ferry which was drifting after a fire broke out in her engine room 20 minutes out of Larne harbour

New rift with US denied by Thatcher

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, yesterday said relations between Britain and America were in good heart, as she and her ministers moved swiftly to counter suggestions of a fresh rift over the recent certification of Argentina as a potential buyer of US arms... Mrs Thatcher drew a distinction between the certification of arms sales as a matter of law because of progress in Argentina on human rights, and the actual sale of weapons which could be used against the Falklands

Spanish 'pilots' strike threat

Spain's commercial pilots yesterday threatened to strike unless ground radar and proper signal lights are installed at Barajas airport, Madrid, where two jets collided in heavy fog on Wednesday, killing 93 people

Lowest pound

The pound sank further against the dollar, closing at a record low of \$1.4355. The dollar finished at a record high against the French franc and a 10-year high against the Deutsche mark

Exam report

Social class differences are the main reason for wide variations in children's examination results, an "experimental" Department of Education report says

Prior mourns

Two thousand mourners, including Mr James Prior, attended a funeral service for Mr Edgar Graham, the Official Unionist politician murdered by the IRA

Sex Bill lost

The Sex Equality Bill, a private member's measure designed to increase women's rights, was defeated in the Commons by 198 votes to 118

Gold in favour

The sharp recovery in the gold price has turned unit trust investors' attention to the bullion market

Rumasa ruling

Spain's Constitutional Court has approved the Government takeover of the Rumasa group, the country's biggest private business empire, last February

Carrington post

Lord Carrington, whose appointment as Nato Secretary-General was announced yesterday, urged people in a radio interview not to be too gloomy about world affairs

'Gang' death

Mr Zhang Chunqiao, a member of the so-called Gang of Four, has died in prison in China. He was reported to have been suffering from cancer

Golden mile

Robert Sangster, the racehorse owner-breeder, has put up £100,000 for next year's Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, making it the most valuable mile race in Europe

Table with 3 columns: News, Sports, and other categories with numerical values.

South Africa non-stop! one take-off one landing one airline.

Advertisement for South African Airways (SAA) featuring an image of a plane and promotional text about non-stop flights to South Africa.

'NGA's objective was to destroy Shah's business by force'

Fining the National Graphical Association £525,000 for contempt of court in the *Stockport Messenger* dispute, Mr Justice Eastham said in the High Court in Manchester that the union's principal objective was to use its muscle and try to destroy the business of the *Messenger's* owner, Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, by force.

The fines were for two separate contempts of court when the NGA unlawfully picketed Mr Shah's printing plant at Warrington between November 22 and November 29 and between November 29 and December 1.

The judge fined the union £150,000 for the first matter and £375,000 for the second.

He told the union: "It gives courts absolutely no pleasure to inflict these fines because the funds of the union are contributed by members in small amounts, no doubt, and obviously a great many members of this trade union are perfectly law-abiding, responsible citizens."

"Their funds have been put in jeopardy because of the continued defiance by the leaders of this union to a plain order of the court which they were prepared to flout because they wanted to smash the business of this company."

"The principal objective of the defendant association was to use its muscle to try and destroy the business of the plaintiff company by force."

He said that the NGA national organizer, Mr George Jerrom, had admitted that he was taking the attitude that nothing should get into the Warrington premises and nothing should get out.

The whole tenor of the evidence shows that whether

they were linking arms or tying themselves together, the so-called pickets were doing their utmost to bring Mr Shah and his company to heel by preventing vans carrying newspapers to leave the premises."

Referring to the incidents on the second week, the judge said: "Any law-abiding citizen would have been shocked that any such thing could have happened in England and should take place at the instigation of union leaders responsible to their members."

"They succeeded in drumming up a demonstration which got over 4,000 people, when inside there were only 10."

He said that NGA counsel could appeal against the fines. "If you do not appeal the fines will be paid out of the funds the sequestrators have already."

Mr Terence Rigby, for the NGA, said that the union would be asking for some sequestered funds to be made available for pensions and sickness and unemployment benefits.

But Mr Justice Eastham said: "There is a good deal of force in what you say but how can I possibly trust the executive of this union when they use their funds totally in breach of the injunctions."

"I have not much confidence in the executive of your union honouring their word."

He reminded all sides that the terms of an injunction granted on October 14 were that the NGA, whether by itself, servants or agents or otherwise, be restrained from inducing, or attempting to induce, any of its members or any other than those employed by the plaintiff or its associated companies to refuse to do or disrupt the work in connection with its goods or service."

That covered all unlawful picketing at the Warrington plant, the judge said.

"It is absolutely plain that quite deliberately, and in breach of that injunction, the defendants have induced or attempted to induce enormous demonstrations outside the premises."

The judge said that when he first fined the union £50,000 he had given a warning that if it continued to defy the law it could expect "ever-increasing fines mounting in severity."

He had originally declined to impose a sequestration because he wanted the NGA officers to "reflect as to whether they really did wish to defy the law to this point."

He said that the union continued to defy the law and was fined a further £100,000. "I again warned them that if they continued to defy the law they could expect fines of increased severity."

"In deciding what I should do I tried and I hope successfully, to put out of my mind what I personally saw on television"



Mr Justice Eastham: "Cannot trust union."

Courts face flood of injunctions

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A rash of injunctions similar to those brought against the National Graphical Association by Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, could flood the courts if the union seeks to spread the *Stockport Messenger* dispute.

Such actions would be in addition to any further proceedings in the High Court in Manchester at the instigation of Mr Shah. An emergency meeting of the union's national council today will tell that the union could be fined out of existence or its leaders imprisoned.

The last option was being ruled out by most employment law specialists last night. They pointed to the political implications of creating a repeat of the "Pentonville Five" case.

Five dockers were committed to prison in July, 1972, by the National Industrial Relations Court for contempt of an order prohibiting "blackening" of a cold storage depot in east London. They were released after the intervention of the Official Solicitor.

Mr Joe Wade, the NGA's general secretary, has said that he does not believe the Government wants to see the imprisonment of the "NGA 45" as a reference to the national council of 40 and top officials.

There is no clearly defined path for future action by the courts because the union is being dealt with by Mr Justice Eastham under the contempt laws which provide the judge with complete freedom of action. However, any further union appearances have to be on the basis of a complaint from Mr Shah.

The vehicle has mainly been Mr James Prior's Employment Act, 1980, which made unlawful secondary industrial action and

Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Act, 1982, has also been brought into play. That Act laid union funds open to civil claim for damages where a union was adjudged to have lost immunity from action because of acting outside the 1980 Act.

But the fines have been imposed on the union under the contempt laws for its defiance of the main injunction.

Mr Justice Eastham appears to be roughly doubling the fine on the union at each appearance for contempt of court. It is believed that this could continue until the sequestrators have little or none of the union's £11m assets left to hand over to the court.

That would lead to the union going out of existence and it could no longer be said to be in contempt of court. But the legal implications for the NGA are wider.

The union has been served with writs seeking damages totalling £3m by 12 national newspapers.

More disruption of Fleet Street would almost certainly persuade most of the national newspaper proprietors to seek to have the union held in contempt for breaching injunctions restraining it from taking action in Fleet Street as part of the *Stockport Messenger* dispute.

Times Newspapers Ltd (publishers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*) and News Group Newspapers Ltd (publishers of *The Sun* and *The News of the World*) were last night granted similar injunctions against the NGA. The orders were made by Mr Justice Cantley in the High Court in London, and brought the companies into line with other Fleet Street newspapers.

Many local papers could weather all-out strike

By Kenneth Gosling

A "substantial" number of Britain's 1,100 regional and local newspapers could weather a printing strike by producing papers with non-union labour and using new technology developed over the past few years.

For months companies have been training staff as part of Project Breakthrough, a Newspaper Society initiative on direct-input technology. And many newspapers are confident that far more will be able to

appear than in the six-week printing strike in 1980 when between 25 and 30 continued to publish.

But against this is the prospect that some newspapers, according to the Newspaper Society which represents regional and local publishers, would not be able to continue at all if a stoppage became prolonged.

The society said yesterday: "We are innocent bystanders in a dispute not of our making over which we have no control

Acas talks ended in arena of mistrust

By Our Labour Correspondent

More than 32 hours of talks at the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) ended yesterday with The National Graphical Association and Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah as far apart as when they started four days earlier.

It was one of the more unusual conciliations that Acas has had to perform, in the words of one official "not one of our happiest experiences", because neither side holds any trust for the other. The result was that out of the hours they spent in the service's London offices, they met face to face for less than an hour in total.

The deep mistrust shared for each other by Mr Shah and the NGA resulted in much of the proceedings being conducted through written notes being carried between meeting rooms by Acas officials. In the end there was agreement on one thing, - that a settlement had foundered on the issue of principle of the closed shop.

Although union negotiators expressed anger at Mr Shah's refusal to renounce the six typewriters he dismissed in July, the main sticking point was the union's insistence that there should be a post-entry closed shop covering production staff at the *Messenger* Group of Newspapers' premises at Bury and Warrington.

Union officials' arguments had been that Mr Shah had conceded the principle of a post-entry closed shop during the first round of Acas talks in London on November 28. Mr Shah countered that his offer was withdrawn because the violent picketing of last week had persuaded his employees that they did not now want a closed shop, or to belong to the union.

and continue myself solely to the more prosaic accounts set out in the affidavits of Mr Shah and Mr Jerrom. "There was an undoubted escalation by the NGA in the first week when they were drumming up this demonstration contrary to the terms of the injunction."

"They succeeded in getting no less than 500 people demonstrating outside the plant."

"One only has to contrast that with the 12-14 workers inside, including Mr Shah and the six security men with their two dogs."

"Peaceful demonstrating was what was claimed to be happening but I have seldom known of premises which have had to have windows boarded up and security guards with dogs inside merely to compete with a peaceful demonstration."

"I have no hesitation in accepting the evidence of Mr Shah, who has always been very careful in all his affidavits to give a restrained account. He is not given to exaggeration."

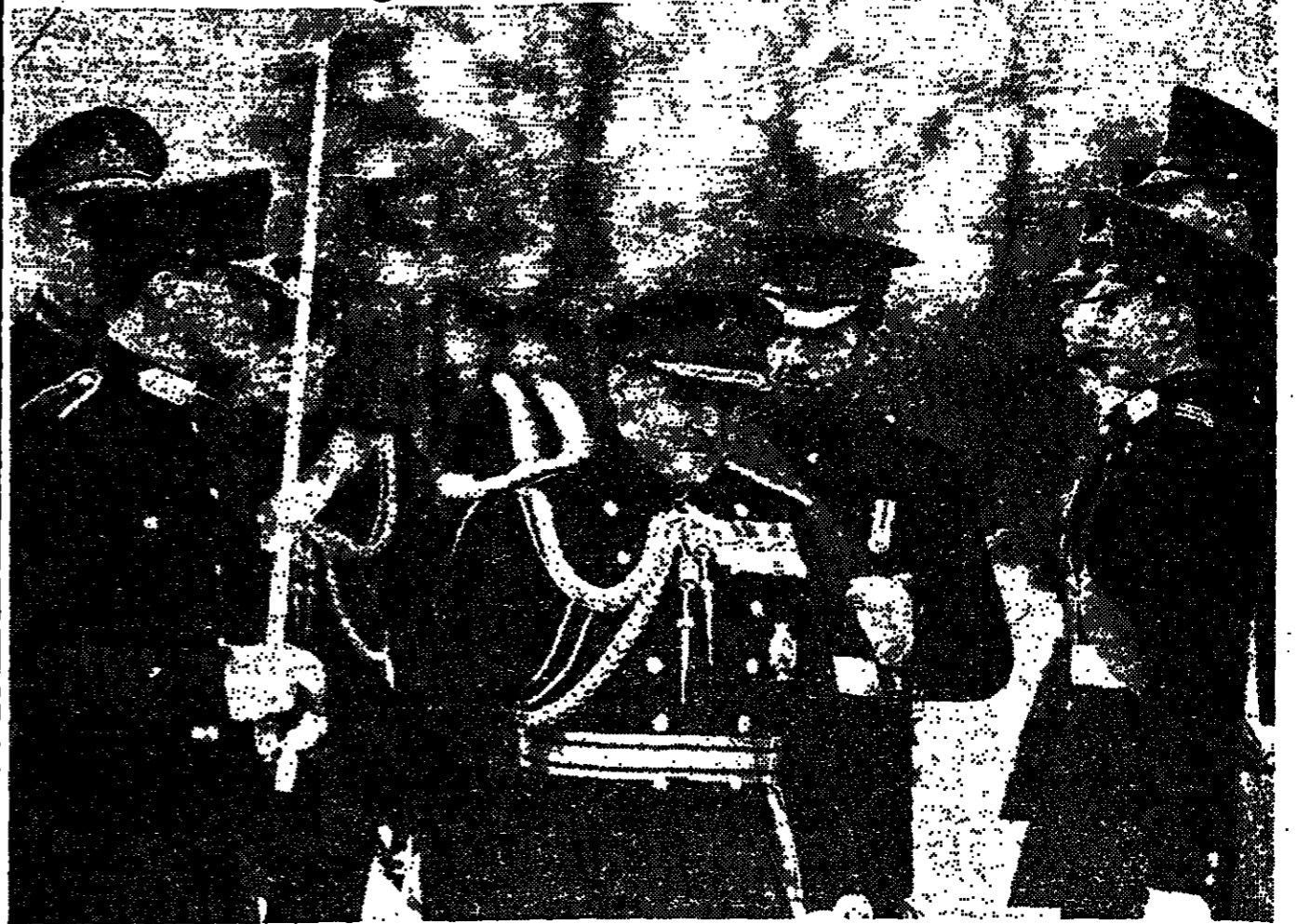
Mr Justice Eastham said the events of the next week were far more serious. It had been asserted that the defendants used a van equipped with loudspeakers to incite the demonstrators.

The next hearing at the High Court in Manchester will be on Wednesday, when the NGA's assets will be further examined in relation to the sequestration order.

The hearing will consider the location of stocks and shares, union contributions, and cash held by the Bank of Ireland.

Mr Justice Eastham made an injunction until next Wednesday restraining the union from disposing of money held by the Bank of Ireland.

Parading at Sandhurst for the last time



Military inspection: General Sir Frank Kitson, Commander in Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, reviewing the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday. The Sword of Honour was awarded to Junior Under Officer Richard Mitchell. (Photograph Harry Kerr)

Censorship 'necessary' in full war

By Peter Hennessy

The Beach Committee on censorship in war has concluded that a voluntary system is the best solution for a conflict such as that fought in the Falklands. But complete censorship of press and broadcasting would be necessary and justified in a full-scale war, it says.

The committee, known officially as the Study Group on Censorship, was established by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of General Sir Hugh Beach, former Master of the Ordnance, in the aftermath of the conflict in the South Atlantic.

It had no illusions about the difficulty of recreating in future a censorship system as tight and as effective as that operated by the Ministry of Information and the service departments in the Second World War.

New technologies, such as electronic news-gathering, meant that total control would be impossible. Whitehall's best hope, the committee reckoned, was to try in advance to get an agreement on censorship with the newspaper and broadcasting organisations.

For small conflicts, fully fledged censorship is deemed impossible and undesirable. The existing, voluntary D-notice system was the best way of handling the media.

The report of the Beach committee whose membership included Mr David Holmes, former political editor of the *BBC*, and Mr Harry Chapman Plisher, former defence correspondent of the *Daily Express*, is expected to be published next week.

Coal board announces 3 pit closures

The National Coal Board is to close two pits in Leicestershire and Derbyshire, next Friday, and a third will end production in seven weeks. About 300 men remain at the Stribston colliery at Coalville, Leicestershire which is closing due to coal exhaustion. The board said yesterday: "There are no compulsory redundancies. The men are either taking voluntary retirement or are transferring to pits in Leicestershire, South Derbyshire or Warwickshire."

In Derbyshire, Pleasley colliery's remaining coal will be worked from Shirebrook colliery near by. Some of the 360 men are being transferred to Shirebrook and to other pits in the area. The Pleasley site will eventually be levelled.

The Desford colliery, Leicestershire, is due to close by February 10. A society-NGA meeting called for November 22 had to be abandoned and will now be difficult to rearrange. A hard-hitting article about management-union relations in the newspaper industry was still a possibility of further discussions. The union also announced that its national council meeting today would discuss the close shop principle raised during the talks.

2,000 attend funeral of IRA victim

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The murder of the Official Unionist politician, Mr Edgar Graham, was described as an "obscenity in the face of God" by the Presbyterian minister who baptized him and yesterday conducted his funeral service at Randalstown, co Antrim.

Two thousand mourners attended the service for Mr Graham, aged 29, who was shot dead by the Provisional IRA. Among those attending were Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and leading members of all political parties in Ulster except Provisional Sinn Fein.

Leading judicial and academic figures were also among the mourners at the Old Congregation Presbyterian Church where Mr Graham, a law lecturer, had worshipped as a boy and where seven members of his family still sing in the choir.

The family had requested the minimum of publicity because that had been Mr Graham's wish during discussions he had had about funeral arrangements with his father some months ago.

The Rev Alan McAlooney, minister of the church, said Mr Graham had been seen as an outstanding potential leader but "this was a hope not to be fulfilled" and a life that had so much to offer to the country had been given so little time.

Mr Graham had not been afraid to speak the truth as he saw it "despite the risks he knew he was running and those risks were considerable. He condemned violence in every form and it was that shameful violence that took his life. He has paid a heavy price for his honesty, open mindedness, fairness and fearlessness."

The minister told the dead man's grieving mother, father and sister that there were no words left to describe the feelings of revulsion at his savage murder but he warned that the greatest danger was that people would allow themselves to be swept by a wave of despair. It was too easy to lose heart and say that the God-fearing people of Ulster had lost their cause.

But it was the Christian faith which would enable people to hold their heads up

Guideline on hospitality for doctors

By Nicholas Timmins

Doctors who want to accept drug company-financed visits to conferences will need permission from their employing authority in future, under proposals issued yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

The draft guidelines on accepting funding, gifts and hospitality from drug companies and other national health service suppliers and contractors apply to all NHS staff.

They follow what the Department of Health describes as an increase in promotional and other offers to NHS staff in recent years and "new forms of inducement".

The authorities should be satisfied that any trip for which subsidised travel or accommodation is offered is confined to bona fide medical, educational, scientific or technical purposes, the guidance says. A "reasonable limit" should be put on recreation time, and funding should be limited to the participant himself.

Air crash inquiry launched

By David Cross

Aviation crash experts from the Ministry of Transport were set last night to begin investigating the disappearance of an executive jet into the sea with 10 people on board on Thursday night.

Of the two-man crew and eight passengers, including two senior air force officers, one of them French, as well as two small children, four bodies have been found; the other six are missing presumed dead.

The plane, a Cessna Conciliation, which belonged to Mr Michael Carlton, a finance and property millionaire, was last seen flying at 400ft on radar screens about 10 miles south-west of Scarborough in the Helmsford at 5.46 pm on Thursday night. The Ministry said yesterday that no distress signal had been received from the aircraft during its flight from Paris via Liverpool. Mr Carlton said yesterday that the weather had been good.

Passengers on the two aircraft were on their way to a weekend of pleasant shooting at the 12,300 acre estate owned by Mr Carlton at Garmanshine in the west of the Isle of Lewis.

The bodies recovered include that of Mrs Jill Parker, the wife of Air Commodore John Parker, from Rushington, Lincolnshire, director of the Royal Air Force's quartering department and a former air attaché at the British Embassy in Paris.

Also among the passengers were General Henri Gimbart, aged 53 of the French Air Force, his wife, and Mr and Mrs John Wallace and their two children, Clarence, aged three, and Jonathan, aged four months, from Willaston in Cheshire.

The aircraft was flown by Captain Stuart Patterson, from Bignor Hill in Kent, and copiloted by Mr Tim Ridgeway.



General Henri Gimbart (left) and Air Commodore John Parker (right), victims of the air crash and Mr Michael Carlton (centre).

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Test-tube twins born

Test tube twins were born in Glasgow yesterday, a few days after the arrival of Scotland's first test-tube baby.

The twin boys were said to be "doing fine" at Stobhill General Hospital, Glasgow. Their mother, Mrs Muriel Kerr, aged 38, was said to be well.

The babies were born six

weeks premature by Caesarian section. One weighed around 4½ lb, the other just under 4 lb.

Earlier yesterday it was announced that a 7 lb 10 oz baby girl was born at the Simpson Memorial Hospital in Edinburgh a few days ago. She was the first test-tube baby conceived and born in Scotland.

Tory poised for second fight in Chesterfield

Mr Nicholas Bourne, a barrister aged 31, has been selected by Chesterfield Conservatives from 100 hopefuls to fight the forthcoming parliamentary by-election.

Mr Bourne, a bachelor from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is confident he can alter the political map in what will be the first by-election since Mrs Margaret Thatcher's victory in June.

It will be the second time he has contested the seat. At the last general election he polled 16,118 votes, second to Mr Eric Varley who held the seat for Labour with a majority of 7,763.

Yesterday, Mr Bourne said he was certain he could take the seat. One of the main planks in his campaign will be attracting more jobs to the town, where unemployment runs at 12.9 per cent.

Mr Varley is leaving politics to go into industry. The constituency Labour Party will make its choice of candidate next month.

Overseas selling prices:
Australia \$2.50, Belgium 2.00, Canada \$2.50, Denmark 2.00, France 2.00, Germany 2.00, Greece 2.00, Hong Kong 2.00, Italy 2.00, Japan 2.00, Korea 2.00, Luxembourg 2.00, Malaysia 2.00, Mexico 2.00, New Zealand 2.00, Norway 2.00, Pakistan 2.00, Portugal 2.00, Singapore 2.00, Spain 2.00, Sweden 2.00, Switzerland 2.00, Taiwan 2.00, Thailand 2.00, USA 2.00, West Germany 2.00, Yugoslavia 2.00.

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Pastel fetches £104,000

A self-portrait in pastel by Chardin, the great French eighteenth-century realist, sold for 1.25m francs (estimate 1.2m to 1.5m francs) or £104,177 in an Andap sale in Paris on Thursday.

The pastel originally belonged to the artist's brother, Jaeste Chardin. It is one of a group of pastels of his family that Chardin executed in the last years of his life; an almost identical self-portrait is in the Louvre. The purchaser was an unnamed American.

The Andap sale also contained a large grisaille and ink preparatory sketch by Francois Andre Vincent for the painting of "La bataille des Pyramides", commissioned by Lucien Bonaparte in 1800 at the request of his brother. The painting itself has disappeared. The study sold for 530,000 francs or \$48,533. A very fine Louis XV set of sofa and 12 matching fauteuils made 2.12m francs (estimate 700,000 francs) or £176,667.

The sale of French furniture from the collection of Paul Wallraf at Sotheby did not match these levels but an ornate nineteenth century Boulle commode made £37,400 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000). It is stamped Henry Dasson 1851.

Ribli requests delay after heavy defeats

By Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent

The ninth game in the match between Vassily Smyslov and Zoltan Ribli in the Acorn Computers World Championship semi-finals which was due to be played at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, London yesterday, was postponed at Ribli's request.

Ribli, the Hungarian grandmaster, is perilously near to losing the match, which stands at 5½ in Smyslov's favour with the Russian needing only 1½ more points to win.

Each player is entitled to take one time-out and Ribli is naturally seeking a pause to recover from a number of heavy defeats.

The game is due to be played next Sunday.

مكتبة من الأصل

Social class not spending determines exam results, survey shows

By Phillip Venning

Social class differences rather than spending on secondary schools are the main reason for the wide variations in examination results of the 96 English education authorities, according to an "experimental" report published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

Although the report admits that its results have to be treated carefully because of difficulties with figures and methods, it does show that statistically some local authorities do better and some worse than might be expected after allowance is made for their special advantages and disadvantages.

The Inner London Education Authority, Britain's highest-spending local authority, does less well, just over 40 per cent of pupils passed one or more higher grade O level or CSE compared with 45 per cent that the calculations indicate.

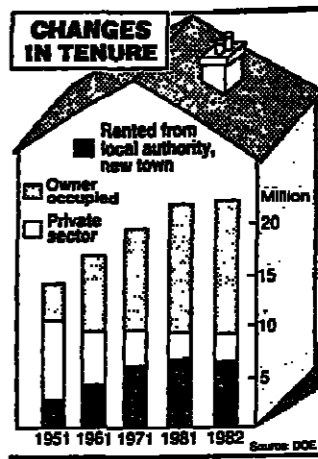


Respecting tradition: A Norwegian girls' choir singing carols after the thirty-seventh lighting up ceremony of the Norwegian Christmas tree erected in Trafalgar Square.

Social trends: 3 Dramatic rise in owner-occupation

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The dramatic change in household tenure in the past 30 years is from private tenancy to owner-occupation according to figures in the latest *Social Trends*.



In 1951 only 30 per cent of all homes in the United Kingdom were owner-occupied, but by 1982, the figure had increased to 59 per cent. During the same period the proportion of homes rented from private owners reduced from 52 per cent in 1951 to 12 per cent in 1982.

Mock-Tudor house curb by planners

Council planners have banned the building of any more mock-Tudor houses in the rural commuter area to the north and west of Birmingham-Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

Treatment 'may lead to brain damage'

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

The leading charity acting for Britain's 50,000 sufferers of multiple sclerosis said yesterday that an alternative treatment using oxygen in pressure chambers could lead to brain damage, paralysis and other serious side-effects if it was not properly supervised.

French milk 'unfit for drinking'

The first consignment of UHT milk from France into Britain has been labelled unfit for human consumption by port authorities.

Apology to detective in Lee case urged

A Court of Appeal judge called on *The Sunday Times* to apologise to Det Supt Ronald Sagar over allegations that he prompted Bruce Lee into confessing to arson.

Autumn start likely for Lords TV experiment

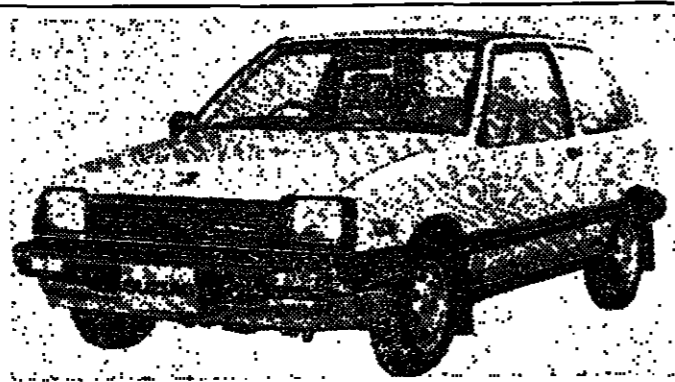
The experiment in televising the proceedings of the Lords is likely to take place next autumn.

Jenkin defends discharge into sea at Sellafield

By Ronald Faux
Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that there was no case for stopping the discharge of nuclear waste into the Irish Sea from the British Nuclear Fuels plant at Sellafield formerly Windscale in Cumbria.

Suzuki gambles on 'world car'

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent
Suzuki Japan, one of the world's largest motor cycle manufacturers, has joined forces with General Motors of the United States in a £200m gamble to produce a new 'world car for the man of the street'.



Car for the masses: The Suzuki SA310GL
The matter is the subject of urgent negotiations between GM, Suzuki, the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association and the US federal authorities.

Clampdown on use of CB

Holders of the £10 citizens band radio licence will have to be aged at least 14, as from next March, according to changes announced in a Commons written reply yesterday by Mr Alexander Fletcher, an Under Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Kidnap case

William Kelly, aged 40, a painter from Tralee, co Kerry, accused in connexion with the kidnaping of the chain store executive, Mr Don Tidey, more than two weeks ago was granted bail in the High Court in Dublin yesterday.

Rapist jailed

Thomas Swaine, aged 24, of Brasenose Road, Didcot, who brutally raped two women, one of them four months pregnant, was jailed for life by Oxford Crown Court yesterday.

106th birthday

Miss Louie Hemington celebrated her 106th birthday with a family party at her home in Kirton, near Boston, Lincolnshire, yesterday.

GREEN THUMB GLOVES A GIFT FOR EVERY GARDENER.

Advertisement for Green Thumb gloves. It features an illustration of a hand holding a pair of green gardening gloves. Text includes: 'Synchemicals range of Green Thumb gloves makes an ideal present for every gardener. They are good looking hardwearing and above all practical, with a range of styles and sizes for men and women. Put Green Thumb gloves at the top of your shopping list this Christmas. Synchemicals Limited, 44 George Walk, London SE1 3EN Telephone 01-232 1225'

Ban warning to football club over police bill

Sheffield United football club was told yesterday that the public could be banned from its terraces unless a dispute over a £51,000 bill for policing last season.

Large advertisement for Noilly Prat champagne. It features a large, dark, textured shape resembling a cork or a piece of wood. Handwritten-style text in French and English is scattered around it. At the bottom right, there is a bottle of Noilly Prat champagne and a glass. Text includes: 'Lobron, Master Vintner of Noilly Prat, has been put under a spell by the Indomitable R. Herring.', 'R.H.: "You can make me a rich man Lobron! How can Noilly Prat taste rounded, ... ypl dry?!",' 'Lobron: [Franc-tike] "Rare plants, my large, from 4 continents imbue its crisp white wines with a rounded herbal note...."', 'Hugo the Cooper [Boring in] "Did you write this Lobron?..."', '... "choice Picpoul and Clairette wines drenched in Mediterranean sun for over a year on paddock of the mellow staves of their numberless casks of oak"...!!"', 'Hugo [cont.] "... They are not numberless Lobron, I have to baild them! ... you'll be inviting them to our Inner Sanctum next to see our secret herbs!"', 'R.H. [silly] "... Secret herbs?... Inner Sanctum?... Hum."', '[NEXT: Report Herring panimates Noilly Prat's Inner Sanctum, designed as an ethereal being]'

The Rumasa affair

Court backs state takeover

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Spain's Socialist Government has won approval from the Constitutional Court for its expropriation of the country's biggest private business empire, the Rumasa group. The court's judgment was made public yesterday.



Minister and financier: Miguel Boyer (left) and Señor Ruiz Mateos.

The verdict was only arrived at after Professor Manuel Garcia Pelayo, the court's President, exercised his casting vote. Six of the 12 members have filed a dissenting judgment, but have upheld the principle that it was necessary for the government to act.

passage in the judgment reads. Elsewhere, it described the expropriation as a singular act of intervention in an exceptional situation, characterized by risk and with a potential for destabilizing the country's financial system, which required urgent action by the Government.

Señor Miguel Boyer, the Economics Minister, justified the seizure at the time as being needed to stem Rumasa's mounting financial troubles. These represented, he said, the gravest bank crisis Spain had suffered. He said an audit completed last month by a team of 16 international accountancy firms had found that Rumasa's losses exceeded its assets in February by more than £1,100m.

Señor Ruiz Mateos, a financier, aged 53, who has been living in London since March, maintained, however, his group was worth more than £2,380m at the time.

The High Court in London decided to await the constitutional Court's judgment before hearing actions between the state management of Rumasa and Señor Ruiz Mateos concerning the ownership of companies in Britain and elsewhere.

The court found that the decree law satisfied all the three constitutional provisions needed. The six dissenting judges did not disagree with the majority finding of extraordinary and urgent necessity in the Rumasa case. But they argued that the use of a decree-law weakened property rights and guarantees for private property.

The court's judgment means that the Government can now go ahead in the next few months with its promised reprivatization of the various elements of the Rumasa empire. Foreign banks have already expressed interest in the group's Banco Atlántico and also in two of the leading Rioja wine firms which belonged to the group.



Prize guests: Mrs Danuta Walesa (left) and her son Bogdan being welcomed in Oslo by Mr Egil Aarvik, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Walesa's wife arrives in Oslo

Oslo (Reuter) - Mrs Danuta Walesa, the wife of the banned Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa, arrived here yesterday to receive the Nobel peace prize today on behalf of her husband.

Accompanied by her eldest son, Bogdan, aged 13, Mrs Walesa was greeted at Oslo airport by Mr Egil Aarvik, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

A small police detachment, along with 200 representatives of the world press, stood by at the airport for the arrival of the Walesas, who had flown from Moscow via Copenhagen.

The Nobel ceremony will take place in the old hall of Oslo University, King Olav of Norway, Government ministers and diplomats will attend but no representatives of communist countries were expected.

WARSAW: Mr Walesa hopes to meet a United States envoy in Gdansk this weekend to discuss the prospects of President Reagan lifting sanctions against Poland, informed sources said yesterday (Roger Boyes writes).

Mr Walesa saw his wife and son off at Warsaw airport yesterday. Police sealed off the airport terminal - one official said it was for the safety of the Walesa family, though the suspicion persisted that it was supposed to block a possible Solidarity demonstration - but allowed the former union leader to accompany his wife as far as the passport control.

Aides of Mr Walesa had made clear earlier that the former solidarity leader would welcome a meeting with Mr John Davis, the US Charge d'Affaires, to talk about his recent policy shift on economic sanctions. He now opposes them.

Adams defends Grenada invasion

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

The only people who wanted foreign troops to remain on Grenada were the islanders themselves. Mr Tom Adams, the Prime Minister of Barbados, said yesterday.

But he expected the country to return to democratic rule "quite quickly" and even a predictable reaction against the left, following the October coup, would disappear in time.

The military response by the United States and East Caribbean states had been an act of liberation, welcomed by 91 per cent of the people according to a recent poll. It had been an "invasion" only in the sense of the 1944 Normandy landings.

Mr Adams, on his way back from the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Delhi, told the Royal Commonwealth Society in London that the coup in which far left revolutionaries first arrested, then murdered, the Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and his senior ministers had come "like a series of bolts from the blue".

The initiative for a military response then seemed to have come from the Prime Minister of St Lucia, Mr Michael Pilgrim, who contacted Mr Adams and argued that it was in the interests of the Eastern Caribbean that neighbouring states should intervene and restore law and order. A formal invitation to do so came from the Organisation of East Caribbean states which approached not only Barbados, but also Jamaica, Britain and the United States.

The "opinion and approval" of Sir Paul Scoon, Grenada's Governor General, who had become the constitutional authority on the island, was obtained and arrangements made for him to issue a formal invitation to intervene as soon as it was politically safe.

But Mr Adams refused to be drawn on the details of Sir Paul's role in the affair.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan was disappointed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's criticism of the US invasion of Grenada, White House counsel Edwin Meese said (Reuter reports).

Mr Meese, in an interview with news agency reporters, expressed the hope that Mrs Thatcher had received enough information now to understand and support the action.

Mr Reagan said his reasons for sending US troops to Grenada were to protect American medical students and restore democracy.



Mr Adams: Expects quick return to democracy

US cuts endanger aid fund

By Our Foreign Staff

Doubts have arisen over the future of the International Development Assistance, the World Bank subsidiary helping the poorest nations, after President Reagan's decision to cut America's annual contribution to \$750m (£525m), the lowest since the mid-1970s.

The association, currently meeting in Paris, provides interest-free loans with up to 50 years to repay to 12 members including the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Netherlands.

However, an Administration official said that in determining the amount of America's contribution the President had accepted the "overwhelming

consensus of his Cabinet."

One American voice against popular opinion was that of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who recommended that the US should put up between \$900m and \$950m.

The meeting in Paris of senior IDA officials will in theory fix the loans budget for the three years from July 1, the seventh replenishment of IDA funds. Negotiations with the other donors of the IDA, if the US gets its way, total funds will amount to only \$9bn

£5m settles Onassis tax dispute

From Mario Modiano Athens

Miss Christina Onassis, the shipping heiress, ended her protracted tax dispute with the Greek authorities yesterday when her solicitors handed over a cheque for the equivalent of £5.25m, the balance of a £7.8m claim.

A tax court originally asked her to pay £19m in taxes and fines on the estate of her father, Aristotle. The tribunal rejected her defence that the Onassis property in Greece, including Olympic Airways, was rented from Panamanian companies.

Miss Onassis appealed, but a few days before the case was due to be heard she reached a settlement with the authorities.

It is understood that work will be resumed soon on construction of a model cardiovascular hospital in Athens at a cost of £27m, a gift of the Alexander Onassis Foundation.

Third Greek ship hit by Iraqi missile

From Our Own Correspondent, Athens

Another Greek merchant ship, the third in two months, has been hit by Iraqi fire in the Gulf. There was no loss of life. The crew of 12 were rescued by another ship.

The Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine reported that a missile had hit the bulk-carrier Iapetos (16,320 gross tons) some 30 miles from the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini.

Iraq announced on Thursday that it had sunk six more ships at the end of the Gulf and repeated its warning to merchant shipping to keep out of what it regards as a war zone.

A spokesman for the Piraeus owners, the Stefanos Stravelakis Shipping Company, said the Iapetos had loaded steel products in Norway and had called at Immingham on Humber-side. "At the time of the attack she was headed for Bandar Khomeini in a convoy of five ships," the spokesman said. "Four of them were hit by missiles launched by aircraft. He could not, however, identify the missile or the aircraft."

WASHINGTON: President Reagan was disappointed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's criticism of the US invasion of Grenada, White House counsel Edwin Meese said (Reuter reports).

Across the Christian divide Pope makes history but Lutherans stay defiant

From Peter Nichols Rome

The struggles of the Reformation will have the palest echoes possible tomorrow night when John Paul II becomes the first pope to cross the threshold of a Lutheran place of worship. He is going to the church here as a guest at a joint service of prayer and preaching as part of the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther.

The Pope will deliver a sermon, as will the Lutheran Pastor, Dr Christof Mayer. Whatever direct references the Pope makes to Luther (and he may make none) will presumably follow the tone of his respectful letter on the subject, dated October 31, when he drew attention to the strength of Luther's religious fervour while avoiding accusations about the destruction of Christian unity.

Dr Mayer is proving a less than perfect host. In a series of statements, he has insisted that the visit should not be interpreted as recognition of papal authority or, even worse, as an act of submission.



Dr Mayer: No submission to the Vatican.

He has invited the Bishop of Rome, he says, in the same way that the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Naples and Milan, among others have visited their local Lutheran communities. The difficulty is that the Bishop of Rome happens also to be Pope.

The uneasy reactions of some of the other Protestant churches here to the news of the Pope's visit must also have struck Dr Mayer. From the Vatican's point of view, a low profile is probably seen as the wisest given the favour lavished on Luther by the East German authorities.

Greater unity between Rome and the Lutherans is still a long way off. Doctrinal discussions have gone well, especially in the United States, since the decision to set up a mixed commission for formal dialogue with the World Lutheran Federation was taken by the two sides in 1967.

There is a growing suspicion among Italian Protestants about the Pope's ecumenical methods. Pastor Giorgio Girardet, of the Waldensian Church, describes them as "public gestures... to conceal a void".

The key passages in the letter referred to Luther's profound religious feeling, but added: "Clearly the rupture of ecclesiastical unity cannot be reduced to the lack of comprehension by the authorities of the Catholic Church or solely to Luther's lack of understanding of true Catholicism, even if both factors played a part."

Luther stood, and stands, for much of what the Pope opposes most strongly. Apart from Luther's hatred of the Papacy, he favoured a married clergy (and married a nun himself). When considering the bitterness of the insults exchanged between Luther and the pope at the close of the break, it is remarkable that the exchanges even now are at a reasonably friendly level.

Mr Adams: Expects quick return to democracy

PARLIAMENT December 9 1983

Sex Equality Bill rejected

COMMONS

A private member's Bill, the Sex Equality Bill, which was designed to improve the rights of women at work and in other areas was rejected in the Commons by 198 votes to 118 - majority against 80.

The Bill's sponsor, Ms Jo Richardson (Barking, Lab), who speaks for the opposition on women's rights but speaking from the back benches, said the Bill had the support of a wide variety of organizations, groups and individuals. In case it should be thought that had been treated up by a lot of trendy feminists groups, she was glad to say that the National Federation of Women's Institutes had offered its support.

Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, urging the House to reject the Bill, said it was impractical, expensive and in many respects alien to public opinion.

Ms Richardson moving the second reading said people had become more and more frustrated at an unfair and unwarranted limitation on their rights as individuals, and the continuing domination by men, confirming the traditionally accepted role of women as dependent and inferior. Women, the majority of the population, continued to be discriminated against in a large number of areas.

In reality, women were increasingly the sole breadwinner in the household. There were nearly one million single parent families in the country, almost exclusively headed by women.

Most married women worked and, without their earnings, families in poverty would be three times as many. In spite of the Equal Pay Act, the majority of women did not get equal pay.

A complaint about equal pay made before taking up a job would be made under the Sex Discrimination Act. One made after taking up the job would be made under the Equal Pay Act. It was ludicrous not to fuse the two Acts together. This Bill put the two together so the problem of deciding which Act to use would not arise.

The Bill would simplify the legislation and bring in the concept of indirect discrimination. For example, part-time workers would be able for the first time to claim as of right, parity in terms of hourly pay with full-time workers. This in itself would be a big stride towards equal pay for women.

The concept of equal pay for work of equal value was extremely important to hundreds of thousands of women who could not claim it because there were no men in their jobs with whom they could compare their work.

The Government's new regulations on the subject had only been approved by the House of Lords with an amendment stating that they did not adequately reflect the decision of the European Court of Justice or the EEC's equal pay directive. The Government has produced unintelligible gobbledegook which would be impossible for women to use in any meaningful way.

The Bill tackled this properly and set out in a simple and constructive way how women could make a claim for equal pay for work of equal value.



Richardson: Women increasingly the sole breadwinner

There were clubs, including working men's clubs and the post London clubs, which technically opened their doors to both sexes but in practice many of them discriminated against women members. It was said that women ripped up snooker tables, but the point was that men considered snooker a male preserve. It was discrimination and should be outlawed.

Sexual harassment at work ranged from sexist language and explicitly sexist calendars to more threatening expanses of women being touched up or asked for sexual favours. This was not only deeply offensive but a manifestation of the male domination of society. It was extremely dangerous to the liberty of women that this sort of thing should continue.

Mr Clark said the Bill sought to make many and far reaching amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act. Fundamentally its purpose was to repeal those Acts and replace them.

This Government (he said) believes that the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts are good, sound pieces of legislation. They have fair and realistic objectives and the obligations they impose are one

with which it is practicable to comply.

The Bill did not take account of the practicalities of the world. It ignored the fundamental principle that access to jobs must be on the basis of merit, not sex. He did not believe many women wanted to be recruited on the basis of their sex and not on the basis of their ability.

The Sex Discrimination Act tackled a genuine problem of sufficient seriousness to merit legislative intervention. While the Act clearly fell into the category of progressive legislation, it was not too far ahead of public opinion. A number of the Bill's provisions went well beyond what public opinion was prepared to support in this very sensitive field of legislation.

The Equal Opportunities Commission had a statutory duty to review the work of the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts. The Commission intended to bring forward proposals for amendment in the latter half of next year, and the Government would consider them most carefully.

While the Government remained firmly committed to equal opportunities, many of the specific proposals in the Bill were misconceived and taken together they had no option to oppose it.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the attitude of the Labour Party was one of total support for the Bill. The principle behind the Bill - which the House should not forget - was that discrimination based on sex and sexuality was wrong.

The Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act has been shown to suffer from important defects. They had been useful and necessary pieces of legislation but were inadequate in some important respects.

Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C), in a maiden speech, said the Bill was attempting to legislate for human behaviour. They were in danger of adding to the behaviour interference industry which already included the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality.

Mr Michael Foot (Blanan Gwent, Lab) said he wanted a commitment that the Government would not proceed with its unworkable regulations on equal pay. His case for the regulations he had been talking in the recent House of Lords debate.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich West, Lab) said every male chauvinist was some woman's son. If he had grown up to believe that her place was in the kitchen sink she had largely herself to blame.

Britain knew of US arms plan

ARGENTINA

The announcement yesterday by President Reagan that certification of and possible resumption of arms sales to Argentina had not been sprung on the British Government, Mr Raymond Whitney, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement in the Commons.

The Prime Minister had made the British position clear to President Reagan when she had seen him in September and the British Government had been kept informed.

Certification under United States law was not equivalent to arms sales.

Like the President (he said) we have noted and welcomed the return to democracy in Argentina and their progress on human rights. Arms purchase is not one of the priorities of the incoming Government. We have been glad to note that the United States administration will exercise caution about the resumption of major new supplies and will not supply weapons which could be used to attempt any invasion of the Falklands.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I welcome the moderate and sensible tone of Mr Whitney's comment on this matter. It makes a striking contrast with the excited rhetoric of the Prime Minister a few weeks ago when she spoke of "betrayal and outrage".

Coming from her it was difficult to understand because she had authorized British firms to supply German firms with equipment for workshops for Argentina and had sold heavy water to Germany knowing that it would be sold for making thermonuclear weapons and that the Argentine Government had not accepted safeguards over the nuclear process.

The only threat to Argentina, he went on, was from Chile which was ruled by a dictatorship even less agreeable than the Argentine junta and to which the British Government was still supplying weapons which could be used against Argentina.

If the minister wanted to dissuade the Argentine Government from taking advantage of the relaxation of American controls, there was no better way than by placing an immediate embargo on the sale of British arms to Chile.

Mr Whitney: I welcome his condemnation of excited rhetoric and I hope that he will continue to take that attitude and shun the excited rhetoric we have seen from him and many Labour MPs in the anti-American postures they have adopted so regularly over past weeks in opposition to all that Mr Healey previously stood for.

The sale of heavy water was nothing to do with the present Government. Arms sales to Chile were examined case by case. Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, also welcomed the marked difference of tone in the statement from that coming from 10 Downing Street. It was a tragedy that the British Government would not be represented at the inauguration of the new Argentine President.

He asked for clarification of the Prime Minister's statement that Argentina had not made a definitive declaration of cessation of hostilities when the new President, in the middle of October, was installed. He called it an illegitimate "coup" by an illegal regime in a just cause.

That true democrat should be sustained by the House and Mrs Thatcher should drop her hysterical attitude on former Falklands.

Book your international calls early and avoid a silent night.

Understandably, our staff of operators will be greatly reduced from 11.00 pm on Christmas Eve until 9.00 am on Boxing Day. They will only be able to connect pre-booked international calls which can't be dialled direct. So check first to see if you can dial direct. If you can, make sure you know the number as there will be no International Directory Enquiry Service from 11 pm on Christmas Eve till 9 am on Boxing Day. If you can't dial direct, consult your local dialling instructions and book your call with the international operator any time between 8 am on Monday 12 December and 6 pm on 24 December. Remember, speak now or forever hold your peace this Christmas.



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كنا من الأصل

North Koreans sentenced to die for Burma bomb murders

Rangoon (Reuter. AP) — The court, which convened on November 22, passed judgment after 30 prosecution witnesses and material evidence were examined.

The Government will decide later when and how the death sentence will be carried out. Death sentences have seldom been carried out in Burma.

The court said the assassination squad acted on the orders of General Kang Chang Su, of North Korea. The assassins stayed in a North Korean diplomat's house in Rangoon after arriving in Burma by boat.

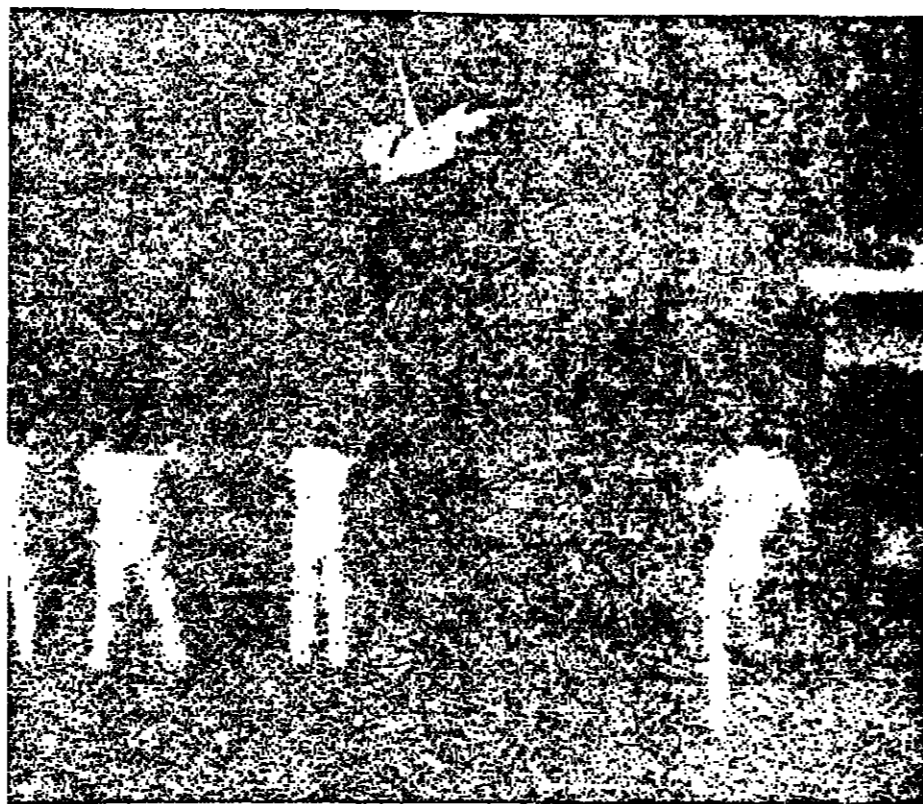
The team planted two Claymore mines and an incendiary bomb in the ceiling of the mausoleum.

President Chun was saved by a traffic delay on the way to the mausoleum. He cancelled the remainder of a six-nation tour of Asia and the Pacific.

The Burmese Government, after conducting its own investigation, last month accused North Korea of responsibility and broke off diplomatic relations. The North Korean Government has denied responsibility.

The court also found the two men guilty of attempted murder and illegal possession of arms, sentencing them to life imprisonment and other jail terms.

Columbia lands safely on a wing and a prayer



Back to earth: Columbia at Edwards Air Force Base after a computer malfunction delayed its return for eight hours.

Investigators began a study of the computers on board the space shuttle Columbia yesterday to find out why two of them failed, delaying the landing by eight hours. (Trevor Fishlock writes from New York).

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said it would probably take weeks to trace the fault. The first computer shut down when the spacecraft was severely jolted by the firing of rocket thrusters in its nose.

Mr John Young, the commander, said:

"It really hit the vehicle hard". He estimated that the force of the jolt was up to 20 times that of the Earth's gravity.

Back at base he remarked that he had "turned to jelly" when the computer went down, but this was a laconic "right stuff" joke. Mr Young, aged 53, is the most experienced of space travellers, having flown in two Gemini and two Apollo missions. He spent 71 hours on the Moon and flew Columbia on its maiden flight two years ago.

Columbia has four general computers and

one back-up. Any one of these can govern the complex manoeuvres which bring the spacecraft out of orbit and back to Earth.

In extreme emergency a pilot could try to land without the aid of the computer, but it is doubted that a man can react fast enough to carry out all the procedures.

When Columbia's first computer went dead its functions were taken over by the second. A few minutes later this computer failed when thrusters were fired. A third computer took over the navigation. After a while the second machine was restarted but

the trouble struck again when a navigation system failed.

Mission Control in Houston, Texas, wanted to analyse what has happened, fearing that there was a fault which might affect all guidance systems during the critical reentry phase.

As always happens, radio contact was lost during reentry. Mission controllers waited 45 chain-smoking minutes before they heard that Columbia was heading for a text book landing at Edward Air Force Base in California.

Air official heads crash inquiry

From Harry Debelius Madrid

With the Spanish airline pilots' union demanding the dismissal of the Director of Civil Aviation, the director of Barajas airport, Madrid and other senior officials, after the collision between two airliners at the airport, a sub-director from the same department has been named to head the committee investigating the accident, it was learned here yesterday.

The committee, led by Señor Celestino Delgado, the sub-director for Air Transport Control, was expected to get the first technical information yesterday from the "black boxes" of the Aviac DC9 and the Iberia Boeing 727 which collided on a foggy runway at the airport last Wednesday morning, killing 93 people.

The airline pilots' union argued at a press conference on Thursday that inadequate and improper marking, lighting and signposting on the taxiways led the pilot of the DC9 to take a fatal wrong turn, and they put the blame on the administration for not correcting the deficiencies.

However, Señor Enrique Barón, the Minister of Transport and Communications, said the marking and lighting were renovated only a year and a half ago, "with the cooperation of the pilots and in accordance with international standards and regulations."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department admitted to a group of journalists on Thursday evening that the airport had no ground radar, but he maintained that it would not have prevented the crash. He estimated the cost of installing such a system at 1 million pesetas (more than £4m).



Mr Zhang: Sentenced for treason

Member of 'Gang' dies in jail

From David Bonavia Hongkong

Mr Zhang Chongqiao, a member of the so-called Gang of Four, has died in prison in China. He was reported to have been suffering from cancer.

Mr Zhang, aged 68, was regarded as the most intelligent and capable member of the conspiratorial group who were tried and sentenced for treason and various other crimes almost three years ago.

Together with Mrs Jiang Qing, Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, Mr Zhang was sentenced to death but given a two-year reprieve. Their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment last January.

Mr Zhang, a former left-wing theorist, censor and political commissar of the entire Chinese armed forces, was one of the chief organizers of the persecution of veteran Communist Party leaders and the violent conflicts of the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976.

The other imprisoned members of the group besides Madame Mao are Mr Wang Hongwen, a youthful activist from Shanghai, and Mr Yao Wenyuan, a journalist.

Islamic states divided over Cyprus Turks

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

A sharp division among the Islamic states meeting here has shown up in their debates over the Turkish Cypriot community's declaration of independence.

On one side of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference here is a resolution proposed by Pakistan which does not seek to condemn the secession, but which calls for intercommunal talks leading to the establishment of a bi-zonal state.

On the other hand a group of left-wing states, including Syria,

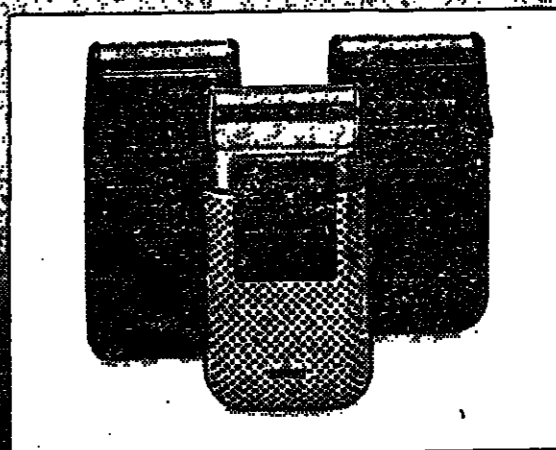
Libya, the Democratic Republic of South Yemen and Algeria, want the resolution to refer to the United Nations resolution, which said the declaration of independence as illegal, called for its withdrawal, and urged all states to refuse recognition.

The Pakistani resolution does not go as far as calling for recognition, even though some states might want it, nor does it offer the Turkish Cypriot state any official status in the Islamic organization.

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THE ARTS

Opera High-flying Butterfly

Donald Southern

Madam Butterfly Coliseum

A Butterfly must always be prepared for metamorphosis, but not quite so sudden, perhaps, as that demanded on Thursday of Elizabeth Vaughan.



Neil Howlett and Elizabeth Vaughan: thoughtful and intense

With the chrysalis of Giocosa and Illica's Italian still clinging to her rather over-large kimono, she lifted the nearly 10-year-old production (with which she is familiar from visits in spring 1982) to heights which, on this first night, it might not otherwise have reached.

His partnership with Gaetano Delogu, making his debut with English National Opera, is rather too close for comfort: too

often Pinkerton sings to the pit, and too often, particularly in the first act, the pit responds with a similar lack of nuance. The orchestra play well; but the energy, opulence and sheer decibel power Delogu draws from them is frequently at the expense of poise and transparency.

Things are better, though, in Act 2, where the restless, charming caricature of this

production, now revived by Malcolm Hunter, has culmed down. Stalwarts like Neil Howlett's thoughtful, stern Sharpless and Anne Marie-Owens's warm Suzuki have time and space to come into their own, and provide, in their reliable way, some of the most satisfying Puccini singing of the evening.

Hilary Finch

Television Cornish excess

Farmer's Arms (BBC 2) was billed as a "Cornish 'country and western' comedy", which sounds about as inviting as a "Texan cockney tragedy", and confusion was further compounded by an elliptical directing, especially when Mr Colin Welland appeared wearing a stetson. Mr Welland has made a career out of theatrical bluntness, and this was his Cornish version: he played Wally, one of the dignitaries of the village to which some of the US Marines were consigned. The number of appalling Cornish "characters" was such, that one could only

support a plethora of scenes, that fascination was sometimes stretched to breaking point.

It was, in other words, a good idea which laboured under the disadvantage of being extremely difficult to present convincingly, especially when Mr Colin Welland appeared wearing a stetson. Mr Welland has made a career out of theatrical bluntness, and this was his Cornish version: he played Wally, one of the dignitaries of the village to which some of the US Marines were consigned. The number of appalling Cornish "characters" was such, that one could only

really feel sorry for the Americans.

It was difficult to see the precise point of last night's play, although the violence of the Cornishmen against the "Yanks", the preparations for a nuclear war, and the sudden discovery of 15 skeletons on a beach suggested that we were being asked to contemplate the nature of aggression and death. Or perhaps not. Whoever decided that it was a "Cornish 'country and western' comedy" was being wildly over-optimistic, however.

Peter Ackroyd

WEEKEND CHOICE

The Day After (ITV tonight 9.30) is the ultimate of horror served up on a rickety table, writes Peter Daville. Once a city has been destroyed by nuclear missiles, the disaster movie has attained the ne plus ultra. From now on, all is anti-climax. And the same is true of this American television film itself once the missiles have landed on Kansas City, instantly converting the walking living who are left into the walking dead. The ghastliness of the film's apocalyptic vision will be too much for some viewers but not enough for others who had been led to expect far worse of Doomsday than this. What seriously flaws the film as a work of fiction is precisely what vitiates all disaster movies, the

superficiality of the sub-plots and the sketchiness of the characters. There is a more profound understanding of the human dimensions of a nuclear armageddon in the gentle lunacy of any of the concluding cartoon strips in Raymond Briggs's When the Wind Blows than in the whole of The Day After.

Ivor Wilson has written a splendid, chilling thriller for tonight's Saturday Night Theatre production in Afternoon Call (Radio 4 8.30 pm), writes Peter Dear. Deceptively a run-of-the-mill murder mystery, the play develops into one that gives the listener a sense of unease even when the identity of the murderer is disclosed, long before the climax of the

play. Jane Collins is excellent as Sally Kingsley, the only good witness the police have in the murder inquiry of her best friend - a local housewife. Detective Chief Inspector Turner leads two young detective constables in the inquiries and it is one of them, Wilkinson, who takes a more than professional interest in the attractive Miss Kingsley - and not only from the sexual angle. Will the plodding Chief Inspector's intuition lead him to the identity of the murderer before he strikes again? A cleverly crafted play that retains the tension to the very last.

David's Wade's Radin column has been held over until next week.

Peter Grimes Dominion

Self-righteous hypocrisy roused to mass hysteria is even now as potent a force for tragedy as ever it was among the fisher-folk and village worthies of Benjamin Britten's opera, which the Welsh National Opera brought to London for a single performance on Thursday night as part of their week's visit with Amoco sponsorship. Under Richard Armstrong's incisive and often trenchant conducting, it was the chorus and orchestra who chiefly established a vivid musical and theatrical experience.

The recent new production by John Copley (who made his own stage debut as the boy apprentice in this opera) is his second version since he staged it at Cardiff in 1978, albeit with much the same cast as then. It brings him closer to portraying the enigma of Grimes as an outsider to the community because he cannot be otherwise. John Hutchinson sang a tor-

mented Grimes, a defiant Grimes, even a poetic Grimes, yet the complexity remained half-lined.

The production has its inconsistencies. Terence Sharpe, a warmly resolute Captain Balstrode, pointed out the impending storm ("look, the wind is holding back the tide") with his back firmly turned to the sea, and Grimes himself made his last landfall in clear moonlight instead of being partly shrouded by sea-mist as signalled by the desolate fog horn.

His final encounter with the sympathetic Elen Orford of Josephine Barslow was nevertheless a moving moment and she would have been a finely shaped character if she had not swallowed quite so many words. Helen Watts made the malignant Widow Sedley a figure of musical menace, and among the other roles the lively singing of Donald Maxwell as Ned Keene and Menai Davies as Auntie was much to be enjoyed.

Noël Goodwin

Theatre

Don Juan Jackson's Lane

Appearing for three nights in Highgate, this Actor's Touring Company production offers a well-thought-out, chilling

Believe It or Not/Role Play Theatre Upstairs

Peter Hartwell's clever permanent set for the Royal Court Young People's Theatre Scheme season - green stageloor serving as floor or greensward, white traverse curtains creating an abstract setting of a precise hospital ward - serves equally well for these last two plays, less ambitious but still vividly contrasted. Yasmine Judge's Role Play, considers a black boy's choice of a police career and its effect on his white friendships, which is not wholly what you expect.

The play takes its time but, thanks to Gill Beadles cast and especially Alex Simon as the honourable, sensitive Rob, it strongly presents the dilemma of a boy whose aspirations turn only into "the acceptable face of police ethnic relations".

For curtain-raiser there is a 15-year-old's jeu d'esprit. Directed by Paulette Randall whose Fishing is running at the Arts, Dawn Scott's Believe It or Not, It's True starts, like Fishing, with a duet of ill-used girls. Sally (Kirsten Soar) compares men, not to useless goldfish as in Miss Randall's play, but to a scarf that comforts but is always round your neck; lonely black Cheryl (Killian Gideon) gloomily eats cold baked beans from a tin with a tablespoon.

Then they press, a big black boy (John Taylor) in a dazzling white suit introduces himself as Cheryl's guardian angel ("Call me G.A."). Though the interesting implications are underdeveloped, the moping Miss Gideon and the suave Mr Taylor, finally reduced to gin-drinking from sheer inability to cope with her, are a lovely pair.

Irving Wardle

Anthony Masters

Concert

Juilliard Quartet Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sustained contact with the precision of Webern's music certainly has an effect on the way that one hears. Turning aside for just a single evening from nightly attendance at the current Barbican Festival of his works, I found myself listening, on the South Bank, to three earlier Viennese masters as if through some kind of aural microscope.

In a less Webernian frame of mind one presumably would have summoned more patience for Hugo Wolf's sprawling, youthful D Minor Quartet. It received a fine interpretation but though this score is packed with ideas, one senses, in view of the length, a lack of selectivity. And the refinement of the playing could not conceal that especially in the first movement Wolf addresses us mostly at the top of his voice. Matters were scarcely improved by reversing the order of the inner movements, as the Juilliard did, as this placed the very energetic Scherzo second.

After such textural density Mozart's Quartet K465 offered relief even though it starts with a famously troubled slow introduction. The Allegro to which this gives way had a performance that beautifully reflected the music's poise and unflagging lucidity. In the Andante was revealed, too, a concentrated expressiveness that quite put one in mind of recent happenings at the Barbican.

Max Harrison

Advertisement for Peter Pan at the Barbican Theatre. It features a picture of a young boy and text including 'LIMITED SEASON ONLY', 'RSC Barbican Theatre', and 'SIMPLY NOT TO BE MISSED'.

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SPORTING DIARY

Just not cricket

Eton and Harrow play up a play there; club men and village boys swipe and swashbuckle there; South Africans play there and sometimes wear England jerseys as well. But once again the England women's cricket team have had their request to do the same turned down. Problems with the fixtures, they are told.

"We asked if we could play New Zealand in a one-day international at Lord's on any Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday between June 12 and August 6," said the Women's Cricket Association's redoubtable PRO, Rachel Heyhoe Flint. "We're all very sad not to be playing at Lord's. The women's team has played there just once since the WCA was founded in 1926, and that was to celebrate their half-centenary in 1976. "Perhaps we'll play there again in another 50 years", said Mrs Flint.

Beethoven book

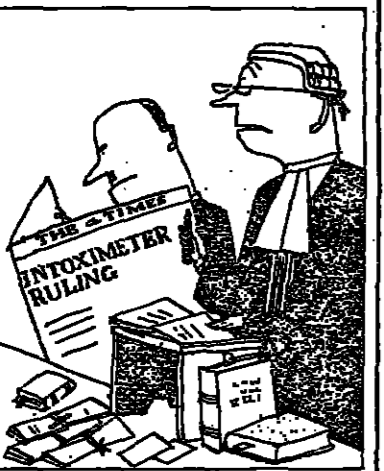
Tickets for Albert Hall boxing events always bear the legend "betting strictly prohibited". Our "betting man, Srikanth Sen, is wondering if tickets to Promenade Concerts have the same inscription and, if not, whether he should make a book on Beethoven's ninth: 2-1 the soprano misses the big note. There's joy for you.

Sweet revenge

Chocs away - the British National Squash Championships have lost the sponsorship of Thornton's, the confectioners, but they have been taken under the wing of Just Juice. What is more, two girls from Guernsey, the spiritual home of the tomato, are seeded to contest the women's final this weekend.

Ladbrokes are already running a book on the World Cup, which reaches the final stage in Mexico in 1986. There are 121 runners at this stage, but they make Brazil an ungenious 7-2 with Argentina at 5-1, England are 16-1, with Scotland 50-1 and Wales and Northern Ireland 100-1.

BARRY FANTONI



"A simple misunderstanding, my lord: my client blew into a taximeter"

Valiant seven

FIFA are accustomed to their wickets' brew of problems with the World Cup but at least they don't have the agonies of the organizers of the fifth African Men's Volleyball Championship, which started at Port Said this week. Of the 16 teams due to compete, only seven turned up. Put your money on Egypt - they trained in China.

Quick change

The worst thing in football, says the Brighton player Jimmy Case, is getting changed: "I seem to spend half my day getting in and out of different clothes. His problems are as nothing when compared with Daley Thompson's in the course of a decaathlon Daley will take his trousers off and on approximately 28 times.

Quotes of the week: "When an industry provides £27m for the Exchequer and sees only £19m returned through the betting levy, and is then told that the Exchequer will not follow an EEC directive on VAT to create parity between ourselves and the French and Irish, it will protest loudly. The English are so rarely asked to like the French and the Irish but in the case of bloodstock, Home Secretary, we do ask you to seek your Government's consideration." The Marquis of Tavistock at the Gimcrack dinner.

Sorry, lads

This week's hot tip: Harrow Borough of the Isthmian League will definitely beat the Third Division club, Newport County in the second round of the FA cup today. The reason? I have been covering FA matches from the first qualifying round onward, following the winners each time, and have been a Jonah to every side. No team I have covered has won twice. Singlehandedly, I have accounted for Charlton St Peter, Uxbridge, Hampton, Slough and Poole. Newport, today's overdog, are in trouble. Sorry, lads, but that's football.

More on the Cup: Ian Botham is in the Southampton squad of 14 for the second-round match against Bury since the club's top scorer, Carmack, is carrying an injury. "Botham is not there just to make up the numbers", said the Southampton manager, Allan Clarke. Teaming fast Franz Beckenbauer: "Once again, Hoddle has demonstrated that he cannot do it when it matters." Ted Croker: "We will definitely qualify."

Simon Barnes

Armageddon out of focus

Bernard Levin finds 'The Day After' aimed at the wrong targets



Three film views of nuclear war: victims in The Day After; the doomsday man of Dr Strangelove; medical aid in On the Beach

Since The Day After, which is to be seen on ITV this evening, will inevitably be discussed almost entirely in terms of its effect on public opinion and on those who are obliged to take that opinion into account in the framing of policy, and since those who commissioned it (the ABC television network in the United States) and made it (Edward Hume, scriptwriter, Nicholas Meyer, director) must have been aware from the start that that would be the result, and indeed must in large measure have intended it to be, it falls to be judged by the standards and principles of political debate rather than of artistic quality.

As it happens, that is just as well, for even on the most indulgent view of it in cinematic terms it is the veriest trash; it inevitably challenges comparison with such other nuclear-holocaust films as Kubrick's Dr Strangelove and Kramer's On the Beach, and fails such a test with devastating completeness. It is composed almost entirely of verbal and visual clichés, the acting is dreadful, and its most striking single image - a vast panoramic shot of wounded and dying people waiting hopelessly for succour - is lifted straight from Gone With The Wind. (There is some ingenious and effective trick photography for the nuclear holocaust itself, and the make-up department has clearly been given its head, together with an unlimited budget for supplies of latex, gelatine and ketchup.)

The Day After sets out to show that full-scale nuclear exchange would be a hideous and unparalleled disaster - it may be said to have proved this point as conclusively as the manufacturers of calendars could prove, if they were minded to, that Christmas comes but once a year. On the other hand, a drunk who announces that twice two are four and that he will fight any man who denies it is unlikely to have his challenge accepted even by the most bullterrier among his audience, and it is not clear whether the makers of The Day After believe that the western world is awash with people who think that nuclear war would be a most delightful experience or whether they are aware that everybody is already possessed of their central argument and are obliged to pretend otherwise lest they should begin to ask themselves why they made the film in the first place.

In seeking an answer to this question let us begin with the last of the film's many excursions into sleight-of-mind. The final moments are devoted to a statement of what we are presumably asked to believe were the makers' motives. They claim to hope that the images of devastation will inspire the world's peoples and leaders to avert the catastrophe; the fallacy is as obvious as the argument that nuclear war would be bad for its users' health, but it must nevertheless be set out and condemned.

We have them as a deterrent to Soviet aggression; the film is careful never to say plainly which side fires nuclear rockets first, but since the war is started by the Soviet Union (following widespread mutiny in the East German army - another reason why the Soviet people will not see the film) sealing off West Berlin, the implication (there is talk of an American ultimatum) is that the United States used nuclear weapons to stem a conventional attack. Thus the trick is done, and the point - that American missiles are hot-headed and dangerous (unlike Soviet missiles, which many members of CND earnestly believe are filled with funny hats, mottoes and tangerines wrapped in silver paper) - is reinforced by a speech from the American President after the holocaust, when he is heard boasting that the United States had not weakened in defence of liberty, for which he had been willing to destroy the world. Whoopee.

With that, the film becomes more than fuel for the flames of CND's most dishonest form of propaganda for one-sided western disarmament (a fire that in the weeks ahead will be fanned by every means available to the movement); with the aid of The Day After, those whose only effect can be to weaken the West will tell us that because nuclear war would be a catastrophe beyond anything the world has ever seen, which is true, the only way to avoid it is to assume that our enemies are really our friends and will do us no harm even if they think they can do us harm with impunity, which is not.

A film like The Day After, which shows what would happen in a nuclear attack - and obviously what it shows is more or less what would really happen - should make us feel even more strongly that we have to avoid such a catastrophe. That duty this film betrays; it shows the horrors in lavish detail, mutters about the world being crazy and the President of the United States crazier than most, then throws up its hands and weeps for mankind. But mankind will not be saved by tears; mankind will be saved by cool heads and resolute policies, or, to put it in the most practical terms, by the West convincing the Soviet Union's leaders that there is a line beyond which an advance by them would entail an unacceptable risk. Of course even Soviet domination and the extinction of our freedoms, national identity and hope would be less terrible than nuclear extermination. But these things are not less terrible than continuing to live in the armed camp that the world has been for a third of a century - and, since the knowledge of nuclear weapons cannot be unlearned, will continue to be for the foreseeable future. The Day After will not shift the terms of the nuclear debate - the debate over the best way of avoiding nuclear war - one inch in any direction. All it can do is to soften a few more heads, increase the emotional content in an argument already over-supplied with it, and induce nightmares in the more impressionable members of the audience. Not enough.

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Moscow's moles and the 'Nazi spy'

On Monday the Public Records Office releases the secret papers which tell of the wartime interrogation of Oswald Mosley. Nigel West suggests why some documents will remain under wraps

The release to the Public Records Office of a further batch of secret Home Office documents known collectively as the Mosley Papers was authorized by the Home Secretary last Thursday. Of the total of 140 files in the series, only six are to be retained. What do these papers contain that is so sensitive? Most observers have concluded that they identify individual informants who have supplied MI5 and Special Branch with inside information. Since the protection of sources is of vital importance to the security service and the police, if only to encourage those currently providing material, it would seem a reasonable assumption.

However, those who have ever had access to MI5 reports know that valued agents are never identified by name. This has been a matter of policy since the earliest days of the security service. There is a much greater likelihood that the most fascinating and explosive files of all relate to Moscow's intervention in the British Fifth Column. The reason for their retention is that they are relevant to MI5's current operations. Furthermore, this extraordinary connexion was not discovered until after the war, when a review was undertaken of Britain's first major wartime spy case, that of Tyler Kent. The remarkable conclusion of this review was the reclassification of the 1940 Tyler Kent case as an example of Soviet espionage. It had hitherto been believed that Kent had been motivated by pro-Nazi sympathies. Certain events after the war forced a dramatic change in this view.

At the time of his arrest in March, 1940, Tyler Kent had been working as a cipher clerk at the American Embassy in London, and his espionage resulted in copies of more than 1,000 classified telegrams reaching Berlin. Many of them contained exchanges that passed between the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, and President Roosevelt. Kent was known to have links with several Britons suspected of being pro-Nazi, and had therefore come under the scrutiny of both Special Branch and the security service. The significance of the Kent case lies in the differing responsibilities of these two separate organizations, which both submitted reports to the Home Secretary about the Blackshirts.

tendent Albert Canning, who reported to the Assistant Commissioner to the CID, Sir Norman Kendall. Canning and Kendall shared publicity, but for more than a decade both men dominated the surveillance of political extremists in pre-war London. Special Branch detectives, then and now, enjoy no extra powers, and the only qualification for entry into the branch is the knowledge of, at least one foreign language. MI5, on the other hand, is altogether quite different and, until 1963 and the publication of the Denning Report on the Profumo affair, remained an unacknowledged department of government. Responsibility for monitoring Blackshirt activity rested with two highly secret sections of MI5: B5(b), a sub-division of the counter-espionage B Division, which was headed by the mysterious Captain Max Knight, who ran agents into those political groups suspected of collaborating with German spies, and the political branch, known as F Division, headed by Roger Hollis, which monitored all the extremist parties of both left and right. F2 dealt with the communists while F3 kept a watch on the various

nationalist movements, and certain individuals suspected of pro-Nazi sympathies. After the war had broken out a galaxy of talent was persuaded to join F Branch to help to identify the potential Fifth Columnists. They included such distinguished men as Sir Roger Fulford, the historian, and Sir Blanshard Stamp, a future Lord of Appeals. In addition to this monitoring of subversives, the "watchers" of B6 undertook to keep selected suspects under observation. During the latter part of 1940 the deployment of the Watcher Service was the responsibility of a bright new MI5 recruit from the Field Security Police named Anthony Blunt. Initially F3 was in the hands of an MI5 officer named Aiken Sneath, but in 1939 a Winchester and Oxford-educated journalist from the Illustrated London News was recruited to assist in dealing with the fascists. He was Graham Mitchell, and it was his job to monitor the activities of Mosley and his supporters. It was partly as a result of his advice that Churchill ordered Mosley and his wife to be detained in May, 1940. Two days earlier Max Knight had



Tyler Kent and Oswald Mosley: Communist among the fascists?

Woodrow Wyatt

US up against the jingo factor

A discreditable anti-Americanism lurks not far from the surface in the British mind. For periods it is suppressed. When something happens which appears to give it respectable justification it jumps unrestrained.

Last Monday in the House of Commons was an instance. The Americans, resentful of the murder of several hundreds of US servicemen in their peacekeeping force in Lebanon (plus more recent attacks) had struck back at the Syrians who had given the murderers the base from which to operate. The American action wasn't very cleverly carried out: it lacked the precision of an Israeli raid, but it was understandable. The weight of the voices in the Commons did not try to understand it. Denis Healey vigorously mined all he could out of the vein of anti-Americanism, misusing his formidable knowledge of international affairs as cover for his purpose. Anti-Americanism goes down a treat with most of the Parliamentary Labour Party and shields Mr. Healey from the arrows of the Marxist inclined. (Why he should bother with them now that he has no future in Labour Party is a mystery which can be explained only by him.)

Why are we so ready to query American motives and actions? Jealousy. It is decades since Britain relinquished the positions which gave us real power in the world. We were right to leave India, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and the Gulf states. Our belief that countries should be independent arbiters of their own fate, added to our reduced circumstances relative to the rest of the world, made this inevitable. But it is obvious that in some areas, such as the Middle East, British withdrawal left major opportunities to the Russians and the undemocratic forces hostile to the West. America's attempt to fill the gap should have our support and it would have, were it not for our residual feeling that it is we who should be doing what America is doing and that we would be doing it much better.

But what are we going to say if the Iranians defeat Iraq and declare, as they did, that they intend to destroy the rulers of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, as they easily

could unless stopped by the Americans? Well, Mr Healey would say, supported by Tories still bitter that America has taken over our previous world role, that the Americans have no business to intervene. If that advice were heeded in many - or even a few - non-communist countries.

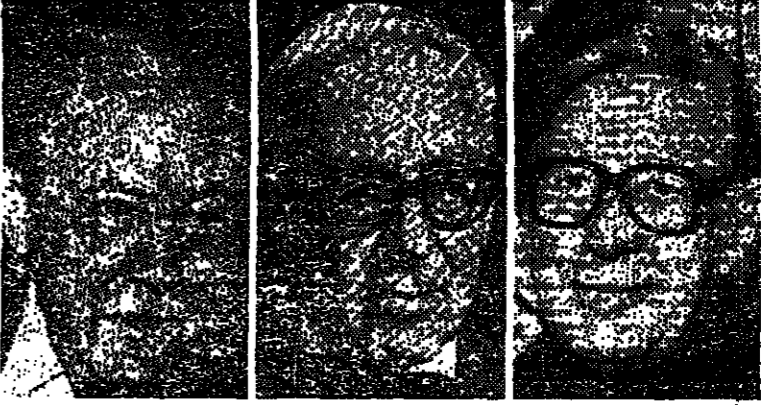
I have yet to see a television documentary in Britain which puts the case for the US's worries about Central America. We get plenty of footage about atrocities committed by anti-Marxist and anti-Cuban forces but none about the atrocities the Marxists and Cubans commit. The Marxists and Cubans are a long way from us but they are close to the US. Where is the documentary programme dispassionately examining the intentions of Cuba, backed by the Soviet Union, to set up Marxist dictatorships to threaten America? We lacked on fast enough to the alleged constitutional impurity of the American action in Grenada and appeared to resent it being given another chance for democracy.

We asked for cruise missiles to be sited here. Even Tories see an opportunity for anti-Americanism in their arrival and foolishly demand dual-key control, with the clear implication that America has suddenly become untrustworthy. The fact that American F111s have been, and still are, flying from British bases for years carrying enough nuclear weapons to blot out most of Russia without any dual control by us does not halt the illogicality of the anti-Americanism over cruise missiles. Nor does our own possession of nuclear weapons sufficient to start a third world war without the USA demanding dual control over them.

We dare not go it alone. We know that the non-communist world depends for its defence on the US. We may regret that it does not depend on us but it is petty-minded to extend that regret into spiteful and condescending attacks on the US. The willingness of America to listen to Britain, for whom the Reagan Administration retains a strong respect and affection, is damaged by the case with which we understand the points of view of American opponents but not hers.

Philip Oakes

The good, the bad and the eminent



Autobiographers Beverly Nichols, A. J. P. Taylor and Laurie Lee: what price "Amis's Law"?

The other night on BBC's Bookmark programme I was, not to put too fine a point on it, mugged by Kingsley Amis, who declared his dislike of a book of mine called *The Jazz Band Ball* - the concluding volume in a trilogy of memoirs. What Amis complained of was not how the book was written but that it had been written at all. I lacked one vital qualification. "He's not eminent," Amis told the programme's presenter, Simon Winchester. "You could take a boring account of a childhood in a Swiss village because it's Albert Schweitzer who's doing it, and that would be interesting. But Oakes isn't eminent enough."

Apart from Amis's enthusiasm for Dr Schweitzer (an unlikely hero for the *Daily Express* drinks columnist. I would have thought) what surprised me was how brisley he made his point, as though it was a rule of thumb which all would-be memoirists should have absorbed with their mother's milk. But, of course, it's no such thing. What Amis was enunciating was a new literary principle - Amis's Law, or less - which, if it is accepted, could substantially alter one's approach to books written and books to come. It decrees that eminence is a pre-requisite of autobiography, a yardstick which all practitioners of Eng. Lit. should stow in their knapsacks forthwith.

have it, although there's no guarantee that will equip them as men of letters. Others have it thrust upon them, which conceivably brings out contrasting life stories as a *Yorkshire Boyhood* by Roy Hattersley and *A Man of Honour*, the true confessions of Joseph Bonannò, head of the American Mafia, under the same net. But where does Amis place recent practitioners of the art such as John Osborne, Clive James, A. J. P. Taylor and Christine Keeler? Are they all eminent enough? Or are there some who are one, or conceivably two, degrees under?

In the days of the Raj there was a pig-sticking regiment in India which has as its motto the terse commandment "Never complain, never explain." Every author should take it to heart and it is in no spirit of remonstrance that I make my enquiry. Perhaps it's worth pointing out, though, that my own trilogy was not conceived as a view from the heights but as a personalized social history of three decades which tells something of English life. The E-factor never comes into it. Nor does their own times (often with a worm's-eye view) offering observations and insights which eminence would blinker.

For example: Hubert Nicholson's *Half My Days and Nights*, which celebrates the provincial Bohemia of the 1930s; Julian Maclaren Ross's *Memoirs of the Forties*, set largely in literary Fitzrovia; *Two Flamboyant Fathers* by Nicolette Devas, which describes a childhood lived in the turbulent shadow of Augustus John and William Goldman's *East End My Cradle*, which marvelously recreates the Steppeney of the 1920s. They may not measure up to the Amis prescription for autobiography, but their vitality, their candour and their vision transcend any gib and peevish concept.

Times change, of course, so do ideas of eminence. Two just turned up a letter from an author who wrote to me in September 1955, thanking me for my review of his novel which the majority of critics had either disliked or misunderstood. "I really am most grateful for your understanding and sympathetic review," he wrote. "These older persons of refinement and taste, even when they praised the book, were hopelessly (and I should hope demonstrably) far from the target. But then they all went to Eton, so how can they know?" It is signed Kingsley Amis.

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Argentina today acquires a new President, Senator Alfonsín was democratically elected. He represents a break with forty years of turbulent political alternation between Peronism and military dictatorship.

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THE NAMIBIAN PRESSURE-POINT

France's decision not to attend any further meetings of the Western "contact group" on Namibia is valuable in drawing attention to the fact that the group has failed in its task of persuading South Africa to allow the birth of an independent Namibia.

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In hot water?

From Mr D. C. Burrows Sir, Has informality gone too far in the Church of England? I have recently attended a baptism where the vicar produced a Thermos flask at the most solemn moment in the service with the words "This is not a coffee break. I am just filling the font with warm water."

Lack of presence

From Mr C. V. Eyre Sir, Recently leaving Banjul, the Gambia, to work in Surabaya, I am struck by the contrast between British representation in the two cities. In Banjul, the small-town capital of the tiny country of a little over half a million people, we maintain a well-staffed British High Commission.

Plans for civil defence

From Mr Simon Turvey Sir, Mr Douglas Hurd's letter of December 7 on civil defence and planning assumptions lamentably fails to provide satisfactory answers to Mr Campbell's main criticisms (feature, December 6) of the Home Office. These criticisms centred on the seriously misleading and ambiguous nature of the new civil defence regulations, the hitherto inadequate contribution made by Government departments and the general ineptness of the Home Office as the lead department for civil defence.

Matters of life and death

From Mr Brian Cummins Sir, The novelist, David Hart (feature, December 5), should stick to fiction. Let me counter the product of his imagination with fact. I am a consultant neurosurgeon with some private practice. After six years' university, my postgraduate education lasted 12 years, when my service commitment to the NHS averaged 85 hours a week. My training, by surgeons of the highest skill, made me competent to perform some of the most complex operations in surgery. As a consultant, I work at least 60 hours each week for the NHS and so do my colleagues. I am paid for 35 hours, which I consider good money.

From the Director of the Oxford Street Association Sir, Greville Janner (December 2) must know that shopkeepers in London would be delighted to be rid of the burden of the private prosecution of alleged shop thieves. My members certainly feel that they have no alternative but to take private action as long as the Metropolitan Police refuse to operate a prosecution policy, in contradistinction to all other forces in the country.

Prison crisis

From Professor Nigel Walker Sir, Mr Rutherford's article, "Building up to a prison crisis", November 25) makes two objections to the new prison-building programme. The first is that it may not end the overcrowding because of the way in which prisoners are allocated (but allocation can be improved when space allows more flexibility).

Sphere of influence

From Dr Marion Gore Sir, Your headline in Saturday's issue (December 3) states: "US tells Russia to keep out of the Middle East". From The Times Atlas of the World it would appear that, as the bomber flies, the distance between Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia, and Beirut is less than half the distance between Key Largo, Florida, and St George's, Grenada.

GLC land reclamation

From Mr Leslie Lane Sir, I sincerely hope that the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, will survive the impending abolition of the Greater London Council. This body was set up by Act of Parliament in 1967, on the initiative of the Civic Trust (of which I was then director). Its remit was to reclaim derelict land along the River Lea from the Thames to Ware in Hertfordshire. Its task is by no means completed.

Plans for civil defence

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doubts on democracy in Bangladesh

From Mr Peter Shore, MP for Bethnal Green and Shoreditch and others Sir, We are disturbed by recent events in Bangladesh and wish to note that the Queen's visit to that country was inopportune and another example of this Government's mishandling of foreign policy.

Prosecution by stores

From the Director of the Oxford Street Association Sir, Greville Janner (December 2) must know that shopkeepers in London would be delighted to be rid of the burden of the private prosecution of alleged shop thieves. My members certainly feel that they have no alternative but to take private action as long as the Metropolitan Police refuse to operate a prosecution policy, in contradistinction to all other forces in the country.

Prison crisis

From Professor Nigel Walker Sir, Mr Rutherford's article, "Building up to a prison crisis", November 25) makes two objections to the new prison-building programme. The first is that it may not end the overcrowding because of the way in which prisoners are allocated (but allocation can be improved when space allows more flexibility).

Sphere of influence

From Dr Marion Gore Sir, Your headline in Saturday's issue (December 3) states: "US tells Russia to keep out of the Middle East". From The Times Atlas of the World it would appear that, as the bomber flies, the distance between Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia, and Beirut is less than half the distance between Key Largo, Florida, and St George's, Grenada.

GLC land reclamation

From Mr Leslie Lane Sir, I sincerely hope that the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, will survive the impending abolition of the Greater London Council. This body was set up by Act of Parliament in 1967, on the initiative of the Civic Trust (of which I was then director). Its remit was to reclaim derelict land along the River Lea from the Thames to Ware in Hertfordshire. Its task is by no means completed.

that they opposed General Ershad at risk to their lives. As happened in February, Ershad met peaceful opposition with army bullets (even the Government admits it killed four unarmed demonstrators) and with the reimposition of martial law, the arrest of many political leaders, and a draconian 23-hour curfew. The demonstrators were opposing the stage-management of democracy implied in Ershad's phased elections. By his response to them, the General has indicated the shallowness of his commitment to democratic norms and institutions.

Prosecution by stores

Your front page story in the same issue reported vandalism while one looting in Luxembourg; while one mother is reported as saying "they just grabbed handbags", the public prosecutor told of "shopkeepers stricken with fear". In many parts of this country there are now recorded instances of shop thieves being as violent as football fans, and more often. The majority are young. This is the real social problem to which our legislators should be addressing themselves rather than the regrettable 3,000 "old age pensioners" who last year pleaded, or were found, guilty of shop theft and who represented just 5 per cent of the total.

Prison crisis

Second, and more important, is the argument that the programme overestimates future needs, so that sentencers will feel free to fill up surplus capacity. (At first sight this seems inconsistent with the first objection, but isn't quite). The concealed assumption of the second objection is that we know the optimum level for the English prison population; and that it is less than - or at least no greater than - the present numbers. It would be nice if this were so, but is there any better justification for the assumption? We do not even know the criteria by which to define the optimum.

Sphere of influence

Who is in whose back yard? Yours faithfully, MARIAN GORE, 24 Lawn Road, NW3.

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By-passing Council on Tribunals

From Dr Peter Kay Sir, Your leader of December 5 rightly brought to notice the role of the Council on Tribunals. The Council has indeed been handicapped by Government restrictions on its powers and budget. Indeed, although it was recognised in 1958 that inquiries were likely to cause as many problems as tribunals, most types of public inquiry were for many years excluded from the council's purview altogether (a restriction achieved by the dexterity of the parliamentary draughtsman after the Lord Chancellor had given the House an assurance to the contrary).

Yet it is also the case that the council has displayed a toothlessness and remoteness beyond that which it might reasonably attribute to its slender resources. To take one example, in 1974 the chairman of the council commented that the council "did not share the view that there was a rising sense of public anger with the way in which road inquiries are conducted". By the end of 1976 three such inquiries had experienced large-scale disruption (with many arrests) precisely because objectors had received no response to rational argument and could see no other way forward.

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Venetian music

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts Sir, "What about the music?" cries Bernard Levin in his splendid trumpet fanfare to "The Genius of Venice" (Saturday, December 3). What indeed. Nothing less than a Festival of Venetian Music to be presented at St James's Church, Piccadilly, and St George's Church, Hanover Square, from January 20 to February 2. Music and architecture to be enjoyed. Details from the knows where. Yours etc, HUGH CASSON, President, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1.

Local heritage

From Dr Hugh Ford Sir, In this great era of new museums perhaps you will allow me the courtesy of your columns to suggest a National Museum of Roads and as an initial exhibit the last mile or so of the A10 that lies within Norfolk up to the Cambridgeshire boundary. This unaffected and contorted stretch of main road contains all the outstanding features of our sadly vanishing main road system: it is very narrow, with many sharp bends, reversed camber, badly sited surface drains and sundry potholes. There are no unnecessary road signs, while under the seasonal layer of crushed sugar beet may be found the slippery and precocious metal road surface. Unhindered by restrictions, the speed of passing traffic is equalled only by the pleasure boats on the adjacent river. The preservation of this brief section of major trunk road, in what must surely be its original state, is a worthy reminder of the conditions with which our ancestors contended. Yours faithfully, HUGH FORD, Brookdale, Church End, Sedford, Near Hunstanton, Norfolk.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 9: Mr T. G. Streton was received in audience by The Queen this morning and kissed hands on his appointment as British High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Mr Goba Betta (Second Secretary), Mr Nohoun Diale (Commercial Attaché) and Mr Kofi-Ekua Kacoo (Financial Attaché).
Madame Diarra had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Commander (Brigadier A. M. Wilson).
The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will distribute the Royal Manxty during a service in Somerset House, Nottingham, on April 19.

A memorial service for the Hon Denis Bery will be held at the Grand Priory Church, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, on December 16 at 11.30.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Roy Smith will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Spanthorne, nr Leyburn, at 2.30 pm on Friday, December 16th, 1983.

A service of thanksgiving for Commander Edward St John Edmondson will be held at Barcombe Parish Church on Saturday, December 31, 1983 at 2.30 pm.



Likeness of war: A detail of a painting showing a British patrol in war-shattered Beirut. The work, by Ken Howard, was commissioned by The Queen's Dragoon Guards and is part of the New English Art Club's exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. L. Barter and Miss A. J. Greenbury
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr & Mrs J. F. Barter, of Westcott, Dorset, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr & Mrs Richard Greenbury.

Mr R. Cain and Miss J. Stirling
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs T. H. Cain, of Beardsden, Glasgow, and Jacqueline, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. B. Stirling, also of Beardsden.

Mr S. P. Campbell and Miss D. L. Lewis
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr P. M. Campbell and Mrs D. P. Coughlin, of Kent, and Isabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Lewis, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr G. R. S. Crichton and Miss E. Polley
The engagement is announced between Gregory Robert Scott, son of the late Mr Crichton and of Mrs G. Crichton, of Sydney, New South Wales, and Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel & Mrs G. T. Polley of Grantsfield, Kimbolton, Hertfordshire.

Mr R. Gunn and Miss M. Stanning
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Professor and Mrs J. Gunn, of Beckenham, Kent, and Melanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Stanning, of Silcock, Bedford.

Mr A. W. King and Miss J. Hancock
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr & Mrs J. W. King, of Mersham-le-Hatch, Kent, and Jane Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr & Mrs R. H. Hancock, of "Summit", Greenfield Lane, Heswall, Wirral.

Judicial honours

Lord Justice Brown, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson have been appointed Privy Counsellors on their appointment as Lord Justices of Appeal.

Latest wills

Mr Victor Samuel Stevens, of Beare Green, Surrey, chartered accountant, left estate valued at £1,048,217 net.
Marguerite Alwyn Besley, of Brighton, left £796,424 net.
Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Hearle, Mr Harold Newton, of Plymouth, £327,503
Drummond-Wolff, Colonel Robert Horace Christian, of Westminster £238,872
Thorp, Miss Margaret Louise, of Aylesbury, £238,406
Wise, Mr James Andrew, of Bognor Regis, £252,834
Miles, Mr Joseph Everard John, of Melbury Abbas, Dorset, £246,887
Percy-Jones, Col Donald, of Kirbymoorside, North Yorkshire, £275,086

Mr R. M. Thompson and Miss E. Griffiths
The engagement is announced between Richard Markham, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. E. M. Thompson, of Lezard, Colchester, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Oswald Griffiths, of Cyfarthfa, Merthyr Tydfil.

Mr J. A. P. Twist and Miss J. M. Wisdom
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Twist, of Tlanishen, Gwent, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Wisdom, of Wykeham House, Alresford, Hampshire.

Mr D. J. Wilson and Miss C. J. Reshaw
The engagement is announced between David James, son of Mr and Mrs J. Wilson, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Catherine Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Reshaw, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr T. G. R. Brinkman and Miss E. N. Murray
The marriage took place in London on Wednesday, December 7, between Mr Roderick Brinkman and the Hon Mrs Seira Murray.

Mr J. F. Brinkman and Miss E. N. Murray
The marriage took place on Wednesday, December 7, at the Episkope and American Church, Montreal, between Mr John Francis Brinkman and Miss Eve Napier Murray.

Mr A. J. Shaw Stewart and Miss J. A. Cossage
The marriage took place on Thursday in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, of Mr Archie Shaw Stewart, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Shaw Stewart, of Lintilh, Melrose, Roxburghshire, and Miss Judy Cossage, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Robert Stewart, of Greenlands, Windesham, Surrey.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Howard Beale, 85; Sir Eric Berthoud, 83; Viscount Ashmore, 82; Miss Rumer Godden, 76; Mr Cecil Hallett, 84; Lord Harris of High Cross, 59; Sir Clifford Jarrett, 74; Mr Michael Jopling, 53; Miss J. MacKenzie, 87; Sir Kenneth MacMillan, 54; Mr Clifford Mitchell-moore, 64; Mr Carlo Ponti, 70; Mr Patrick Reynolds, 58; Sir Frances Sandilands, 70; Sir Donald Sargent, 77; Sir Eric Scott, 92; Mr Alexander Selchenityan, 65; Mr C. F. J. Younger, 75.

University news

Appointments as lecturers:
Dr P. B. B. North, staff lecturer in Polymer Chemistry, University of Warwick, Warwick, CV4 7AL.
Thomson, BA, MA (Cantab), computerist.

The certainty of the Advent hope

One of the earliest casualties of the modern Christmas festival is Advent. Many years ago it was customary to have courses of sermons during the Advent season on the four last things: Death, Judgment, heaven and hell.
During November and December of 1912 the correspondence columns of The Manchester Guardian, the "broader church" newspaper of the time revealed an acknowledged sense of need for preachers to express fearlessly the message of the Advent hope.

Today that need is as urgent as ever before. It is not to imply that those solemn subjects should now be so starkly included in any curriculum of preaching in cathedrals or parish churches, and it is unlikely, if they were, that they would have any popular appeal.

When we come to heaven we find it means little to those who have known only the affluent society. It is also the comment that those subjects should now be so starkly included in any curriculum of preaching in cathedrals or parish churches, and it is unlikely, if they were, that they would have any popular appeal.

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millions who suffer from famine, frustration, war or disease.
What, then has God to offer? As we search for an answer we need to learn from two serious mistakes made in the past. The horrific descriptions of the Day of Wrath and the Last Judgment were part of the Furniture of those who lived in the Middle Ages or belonged later to the Puritanical tradition.

Eventually, the truth dawned that such a distorted picture was a blasphemous rather than an orthodox version of Christian belief. But the reaction was equally inaccurate. God's mercy and grace came to be exploited by those who rejected absolute moral standards, thus blurring the line that divided right from wrong so that each was allowed to slide into the other.

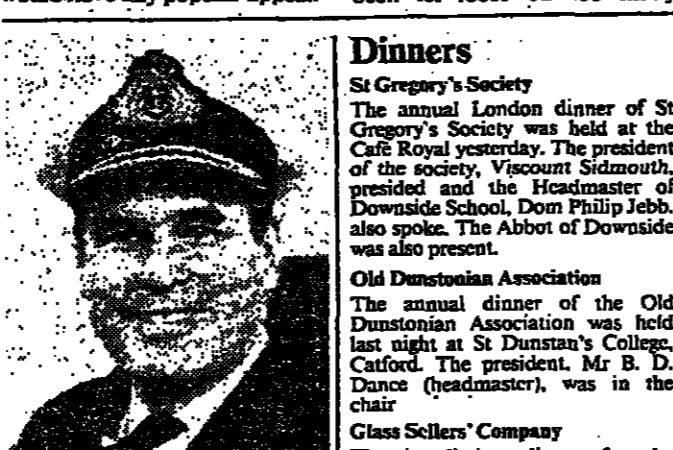
In contrast to both those erroneous and distorted versions of the Christian creed we find the faith of the early Christians refreshingly simple, even if it had to be interpreted and adapted as time went by. They eagerly looked forward to a personal encounter with the master of their lives. Nor was their total accountability to Him a purely private affair as it was the pivot of their attitude to others, both those who were

members of their fellowship and beyond.
They knew their need for salvation and for an ultimate judgment to be made by One who had perfect knowledge derived in no sense from their own achievements but from what God had already done.

It matters little, therefore, in what form we accept and experience a personal accountability to God. As the "Te Deum" puts it: "We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge" more than a warning, it is rather a programme for life as expressed in the words of St John: "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure".

That subject is a challenge to all of us in the contemporary church. The certainty of our hope is not a "consummation devoutly to be wished" nor yet to be achieved by the application of Christian principles apart from personal accountability to Christ. It is a consequence of the victory which Christ has already achieved for all of us and in which we ourselves are meant to share.

Arthur Burrell
Chaplain,
Goring Heath, Reading



Vice-Admiral Nicholas Hunt, Director-General of Naval Manpower and Training at the Ministry of Defence who becomes the most senior naval officer in Scotland and Northern Ireland on December 6 when he takes up the posts of Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland and Port Admiral, Rosyth.

Reception
HM Government
The Hon George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, was host at a reception in Edinburgh Castle yesterday evening to mark the centenary of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association.

St Albans School
The Governors of St Albans School have appointed Mr Simon C. Wilkinson, Undermaster and Careers Master at Malvern College, to be Headmaster of St Albans School from September 1, 1984, on the retirement of Mr Frank I. Kivington.

Memorial service
Dr J de Plat Taylor
A memorial service was held on December 7, 1983, in the University Church of the King, Gordon Square, London WC1, for Dr Joan de Plat Taylor, and Miss Geraldine Talbot, and the address was given by Professor J D Evans.

Science report
Biotech use for slaughterhouse blood
By Anice Alexander
The slaughter of animals for meat is one of the few industries that turns almost every piece of waste into a useful by-product. Hide, hair, glands, fat bones, organs and intestines are converted into raw materials for a wide range of industrial, medical, human and animal food products.

But there is one waste product that is exceptionally difficult to deal with, and until recently has defied efforts to find a satisfactory solution for its disposal. That is blood residue.

In 1982 more than 800,000 tons were dumped into public drainage systems throughout Europe. The hidden cost to taxpayers of pollution and of the burden on sewage purification plants is high. In biological terms, the problem of disposal lies in neutralizing the protein

and meat pies which supplement meat content or provide certain functional properties.
The process was perfected in conjunction with the Danish biotechnology company Novo Industri, a large manufacturer of industrial enzymes, which has developed a biotechnology-based process. It separates the haem (colouring pigment) from the globin in blood pigment, thus allowing all of the protein available in residue to be recovered.

Luncheon
Sweet and Maxwell Ltd
The Chairman and Directors of Sweet and Maxwell Ltd, were hosts at a luncheon held at the Law Society yesterday to honour Sir Desmond Hester with a presentation of a special issue of the Journal of Planning and Environment Law.

Among those present were: Lord Justice Goff, Mr Justice Mustill, Mr Justice Nourse, Mr Justice Slade, Mr Justice Templeman, Mr Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Young, Mr Justice Goff, Mr Justice Mustill, Mr Justice Nourse, Mr Justice Slade, Mr Justice Templeman, Mr Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Young.

Services tomorrow:
Third Sunday in Advent
WESTMINSTER ABBEY, HC 8. M. 10. Benedicite (Dixon in F). This is the record of John Gibbons. Rev R Morgan; Sung Eucharist. 11.30. Antiphona: Christe, Rex Caeli. (Psalms: 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Services tomorrow:
Third Sunday in Advent
WESTMINSTER ABBEY, HC 8. M. 10. Benedicite (Dixon in F). This is the record of John Gibbons. Rev R Morgan; Sung Eucharist. 11.30. Antiphona: Christe, Rex Caeli. (Psalms: 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576,

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12, 13 Travel: For Ever England in Jamaica; Fare deals to the Caribbean; Austrian skiing; Seychelles; Channel ports; In the Garden and Drink

14, 15 Family Life; At Home on stamp collecting; Values: Tasteful guide to cakes and Christmas puddings; Toys from the chain stores

THE TIMES Saturday

16, 17 Review: Classical records of the year; Carol services; Critics' choice of Music, Films and Theatre; Prize concise crossword

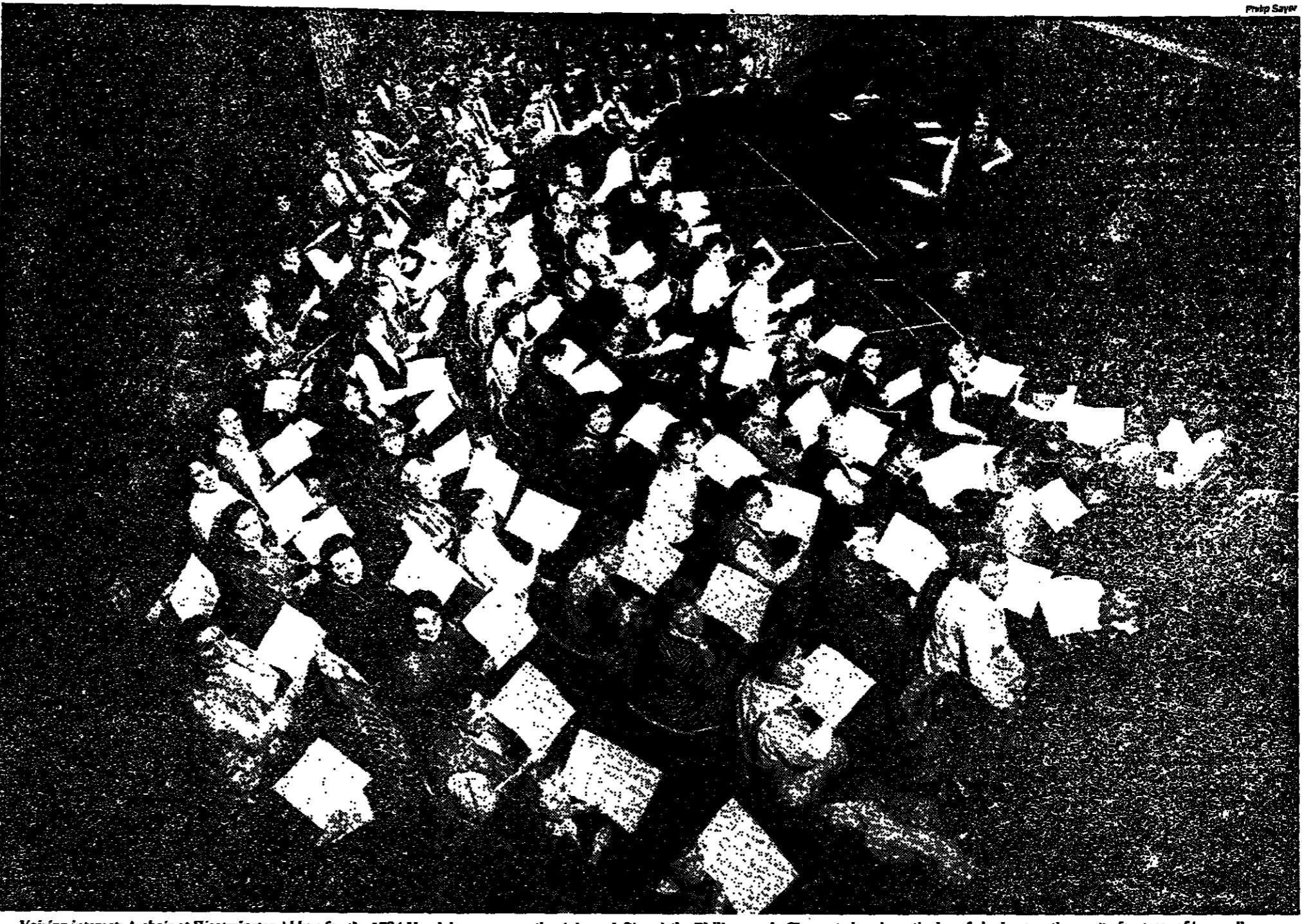
19, 20 Eating Out: The gourmets' holiday; Out and About on the river and railways; Photography; Bridge and Chess; The Week Ahead

10-16 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Singing the praises of the vox pop



In music there are those who do and those who listen. But if one great leveller exists it is singing, practised by choirs in towns and cities, hospitals and the House of Lords. Paul Jennings, author, and member of the Philharmonia Chorus, rejoices with them



Voicing interest: A choir at Westminster Abbey for the 1784 Handel commemoration (above, left) and the Philharmonia Chorus today share the joy of singing together... "a forest of heaven"

I once presented on BBC2 that Albert Hall example of Britain's choral enthusiasm carried to a point of loony beauty. "Messiah from Scratch". It far exceeded the Handel commemoration performances of 1784, which had a mere 525 performers (59 sopranos, 48 altos, 83 tenors, 84 basses, 48 first and 47 second violins, just six flutes but an amazing 26 oboes), described by Dr Percy Young as "that mammoth progenitor of all musical festivals and choral constipation". It was not on the scale of the Crystal Palace performances of the 1920s when more than 4,000 took part; but it wasn't far off: there were nearly 2,000 sopranos.



Bathroom baritones warmly welcomed

Unless you live in a very remote area you will be within reach of some choir that will give you a great deal more pleasure than singing in the bath, and will surprise you even more at what you can do. Even experienced chorists find their lines easier to learn at rehearsals than at home. Very often all that is asked is a minimum of music-reading ability and a maximum of keenness. A surprisingly large number of choirs do not even have an audition, but obviously the better the choirs the tougher the audition. Nearly all

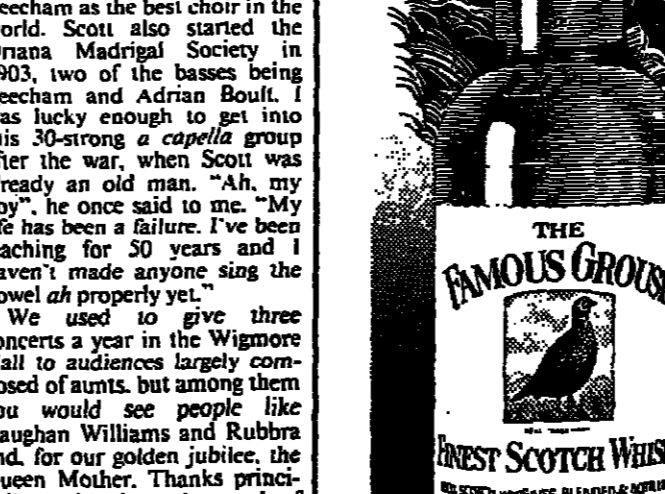
At a time when even those in the penumbra of all this choral splendour at least have a go at singing carols, if only in unison, one is reminded that our unrivalled cathedral and church choir tradition is indeed one of the streams that has fed this mighty ocean. But it is only one of the streams. We in this country have brought as near as you can get to perfection the fusion between the great amateur chorus with the great professional orchestra. It is a sublime paradox, because the fact is that music, like all art, is aristocratic.



The Village Choir - Mary Evans Picture Library

published by the fortnightly Classical Music, (52a Floral Street WC2, 01-836 2534), which also carries notices of vacancies in new and old choirs and, periodically, of summer schools. Information about more than 8,000 church choirs can be obtained from the Royal School of Church Music, Addington Palace, Croydon (01-654 1671) which also runs courses; and on operatic and stage performance societies from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, 1, Crestfield Street, London WC1 (01-937 5525).

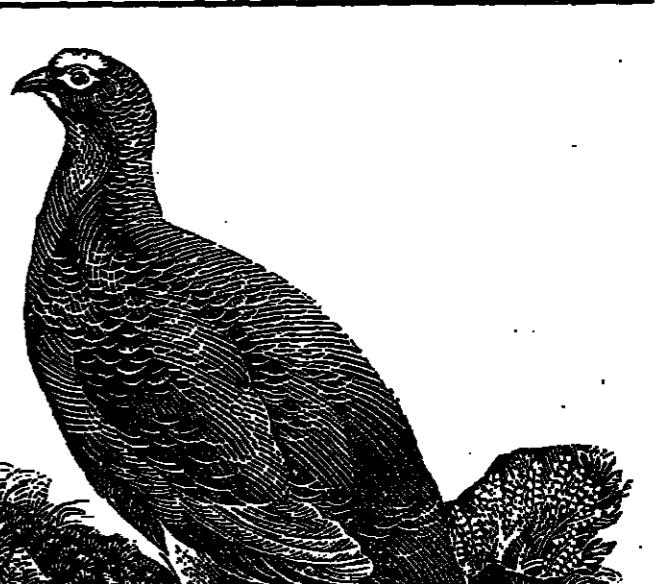
If you are going to make your living as a singer, you must have the kind of voice that someone will recognize, and like, after a couple of bars, just as any writer worth his salt should be recognizable after a paragraph or so. But in any good choir, while you must obviously have learnt the basic techniques of breath control, head resonance and perhaps sight-reading, you must also learn how not to stand out, how to listen to other parts, how to shut down when they have an important entry and how to blend in.



Christmas carol services p16

Three quarters of a century before its choir was founded in 1836, John Wesley wrote of Huddersfield: "A wilder people I never saw in England." Such was the unpromising background against which it began as a self-bettering, do-it-yourself enterprise by local working people, run by a committee under a foreman. Each member was allowed "three gills of ale and bread and cheese etc". There were only 16 of them, and they met once a month to practise on or near the day of the full moon, so that they could see their way home along the unlit roads.

There are choirs in new towns like Harlow and Stevenage which were formed practically as soon as the first houses were built. "We are doing Mahler 2, and we've done the St John Passion, works by Finzi, Britten, all kinds of things", says Peter Wigfield, the professional music teacher and horn-player who trains Stevenage choir and orchestra. "And the balance is tipping the right way, we're getting more young people joining."



Quality in an age of change.

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Mesmerized by a heady mix of love and hate

The haunting beauty and bitterness of Jamaica is explored by Michael Watkins



Once I asked a Martiniquean the secret of *petit punch*, the local rum drink and work of art. "Melanger soigneusement et avec amour", he replied. Mix with love and care. Why, of course. And if anyone questions me about the Caribbean, why it is so different, this is what I tell them. It has all been mixed with love and care.

Mind you, it wasn't always so. The small, vivid piece of the great American experience that began one October morning 480 odd years ago was engineered by a principle of evil. The Conquistadores established their colonial gains - in Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica - on a base of unparalleled genocide.

The sons of Castille, Andalusia, Aragon and Valencia brought 1,500 years of Christianity with them; armed with this faith, they annihilated the entire aboriginal population of the Caribbean islands, the gentle Arawaks. The Carib Indians suffered a similar fate; but they forfeited sympathy on account of their table manners, exemplified by their preference of human flesh to brute protein.

The Arawaks' posthumous revenge was subtle and devastating. Syphilis, with them endemic and no more serious than our common cold, was their bequest to Western culture. With the humble spirochaete they imbued the sexual act with terror.

The Spanish remained on the island of Jamaica for a century and a half before being run off by the English in 1655. The English established their first civil government in 1661, at a time when the settlers numbered 3,500 and African slaves about 700. By 1844 there were 15,776 Europeans and 361,657 of either mixed or African blood.

By sheer genetic weight, the African slave has given main definition to the face of Jamaica; but it is miscegenation, the mixing of blood with love and care, which has made that face so hauntingly beautiful.

Historically, slavery generated a matriarchal society. West Indian novelist George Lamming said it all: "My mother who fathered me... my father who had fathered only the idea of me."

Looking back at my first visit to Jamaica, I think I was in a state of shock. Jamaica did not welcome me passively, but with claws, drawing blood and scarring me for life. I have returned 25 times, mesmerized by this love-hate relationship.

The violence that looted, raped and killed Jamaicans during the time that Michael Manley was being accused of

being a power-crazed totalitarian is always there. I hate what I see on the beach at Doctor's Cave in Montego Bay, when bored tourists buy love with dollar bills. I hate, with implacable loathing, those tourists who infect Jamaicans with the subtleties of Basingstoke or Baltimore. I even hate myself for my impatience when Jamaicans say "soon come" and do not come at all.

Like everywhere else, Jamaica is divided into two: the obvious and the less so. The first is facile, packaged, like the north-coast resort Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Port Antonio. For a voyage of discovery if you were so inclined, you would set course for the Land of Look Behind, situated in the interior known as Cockpit Country. It is 43 miles from Montego Bay, a good three hours' drive by car, the terrain is not suited to air-conditioned tourist coaches. If you find your way - and there is no guarantee that you will - your destination is Accompong, home of the Maroons.

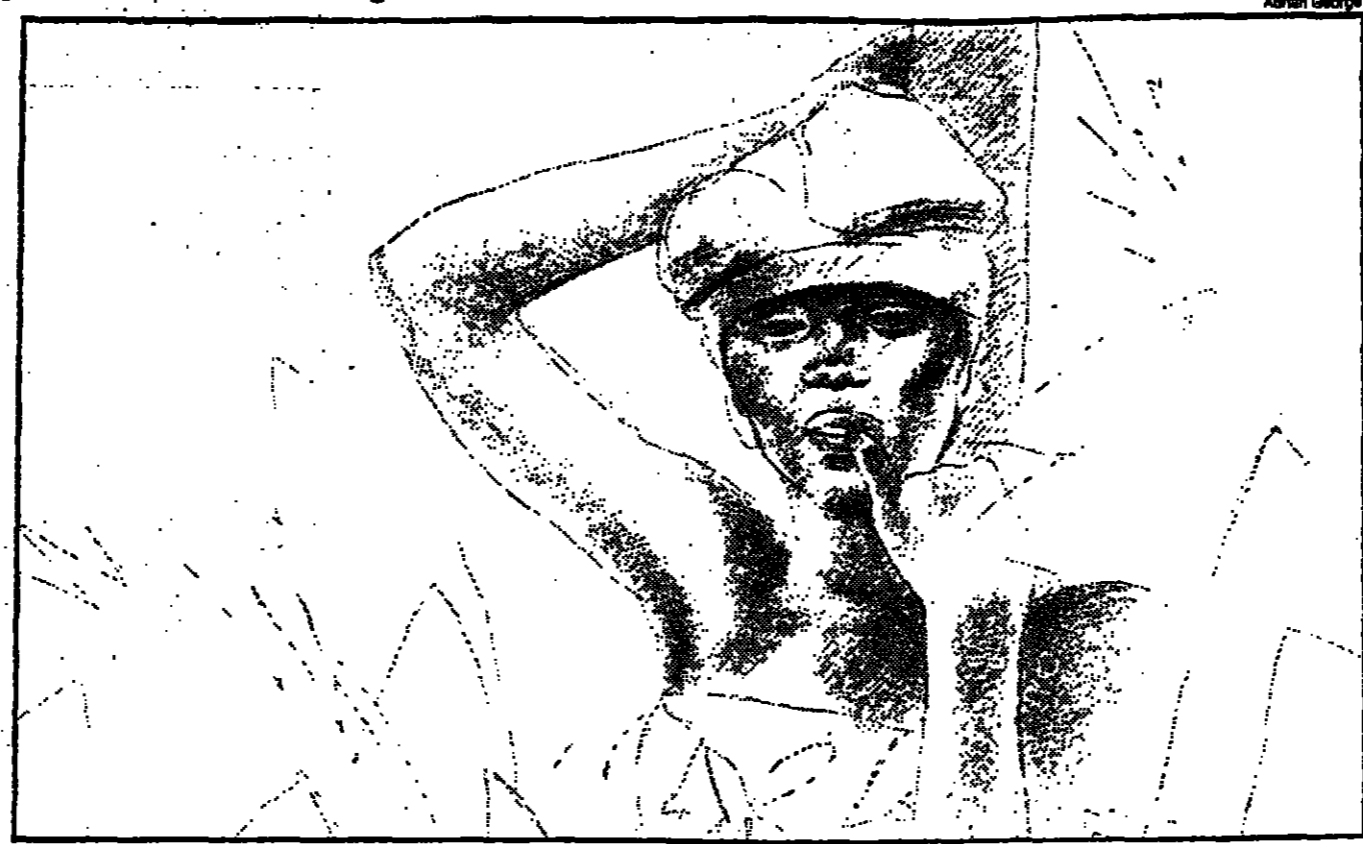
During the drive to expel the Spanish from the island, bands of slaves ran away to the mountains where they defeated the British in every effort of the British to subdue them.

The "Maroon Wars" were archetypal guerrilla campaigns, slaves using the jungle-covered mountains to suit their hit-and-run strategy, causing the Redcoats to "look behind" in both fear and frustration. The Maroons even organized themselves into units modelled on British lines, commanded by a colonel, officered by majors and captains. Cudjoe, who escaped from a slave plantation called Suttons, became the chief at Accompong while 100 miles to the east, the Windward Maroons waged their own war under the warrior priestess Nanny of the Maroons, revered today as the Right Excellent Nanny.

The peace treaty was signed in 1738, and the British ceded certain lands and hunting rights to the Maroons, which obtain to this day. My last visit to Accompong was 10 years ago when Colonel Martin Luther Wright presided over his 2,500-acre "kingdom" which had no electricity or running water. The Colonel himself was exquisitely courteous, but had no shoes.

Going to meet the Colonel this time was a different matter. He now wore shoes. Electricity arrived five years ago and was followed shortly by a futile sense of bitterness among the Maroons, who believed they were being denied their inheritance.

Colonel Harris Cawley, elected democratically in 1982,



took me: "First we are Maroons, secondly Jamaicans, but the government in Kingston has taken away our lands. I have applied to the British High Commissioner and the Queen to review the peace treaty, but we have been abandoned. The British talk about the Third World on a grand scale, but they have neglected my 1,500 people. 'They go to Kingston', he said. 'They have their heads lifted (educated).'"

Harris is the name on the headstones; and Harris are the features upon the faces of the Windward Maroons. Once their heads are lifted, the young men will turn their backs on the tiny wooden settlements of Ginger House, Alligator Church and Cornwall Barracks. And when they have gone, the jungle will reclaim that carefully tended chain of flattened red earth they made into a cricket pitch.

One likes to think of continuity, it is anodyne to sacrifice and suffering; but I do not believe there is much comfort for Charles Ross, (indescribable) Light Infantry, who died in 1840. Nor even for Harriet, beloved wife of Ensign James Twibill, whose date of death has been erased from the stone by the elements and by neglect. They lie, the colour- sergeant and the beloved wife, in a graveyard a mile or so across the hills from Accompong.

I counted 22 headstones, submerged by a sea of wild mint and banana. There were more, but an earthquake in 1953 plundered the graves, sending bones tumbling down the hill. I could read, or part read, only of Charles and Harriet; and it won't be long before their identities, too, finally vanish. We shall never know whether a musket volley took them, or whether it was yellow fever, or

even ennu, as lethal then as it is now.

Not far away is the Pentecostal school of Brownstone village. It consists of one wooden room, a tin roof and paraffin lamps. There are about 20 infants, with shy smiles and huge eyes, full of wonder. And there is Miss Cleopatra Jolly, the teacher, who was planting peas and corn when I walked down the track to the school.

Later she strummed on her guitar. The children listened, bewildered and trusting. "I do the best I can", she sang to them, accompanying herself. "A few more days and I must go." She'll go, of course. To join her Maker, as she would say. Something will get her, a chill, or the poisonous unripe fruit of ackee, which claims scores of Jamaicans. But I know one thing, and Miss Jolly knows it too: the money fly will never get her.

Fares: see Fare Deal column. Recommended north coast hotels: Half Moon in Montego Bay, the Plantation Inn and Jamaica Inn, Ocho Rios; Trident in Port Antonio. Full details from Windotel, 149 Stone Street, London SW1X 9BZ (01-750 7144).

Visa hire car for 10 days: £242.66. Discount along the north coast marginally less than London prices. The price of Appleton Estate rum is still about £2 a bottle.

Most of the tourist attractions - beaches, first-class hotels, restaurants, entertainments - are along the North Coast between Negri and Port Antonio. The interior, described in the article, and the south coast, have few tourist facilities: neither are the lines of communication entirely dependable. Kingston is to be avoided unless you have specific reason for being there.

Great escapes to a haven of warmth

There are plenty of cheap ways to get to the Caribbean. Alex McWhirter provides the details



As winter tightens its chilly grip, the idea of relaxing for a while in the warmth of the Caribbean becomes more and more appealing. There are a host of different ways of getting there: your choice will be largely determined by your pocket.

The cheapest regular method of travel is currently provided by Apex fares. Prices are seasonal with the outward date determining the fare paid.

Here are some examples of Apex fares sold by British Airways and other major airlines for departures from the UK on the specified dates: Dec 11-24: Kingston/Montego Bay £517, Bermuda £429, Nassau £459; Dec 25-Mar 31: £431, £329, £369 respectively; April 1-June 30: £456, £379 and £399. Dec 10-31: Antigua/Barbados/St Lucia £424, Port of Spain £473; Jan 1-April 30: £363 and £413 respectively; May 1-June 30: £316 and £368.

Apex fares must be booked at least 21 days ahead, stopovers are not allowed and a cancellation charge of £50 applies. Some agents will throw in extras such as free insurance and increased baggage allowance.

Another cheap way of reaching the Caribbean, often for little more than the cost of an Apex ticket, is to take a self-catering or budget-accommodation package deal. Tour operators marketing such packages include Pegasus, Tradewinds and Kuoni.

These ideas are fine if you just want to visit a single destination but what if you want to cover several? One solution for adventurous travellers is to make Miami your gateway. Travel there on an Apex fare, relax for a couple of days and recover from jetlag, then check out locally the most suitable excursion or circular trip fare.

Freight flights operate from Miami to a multitude of Caribbean destinations, most of which cannot be reached direct from London. If you are keen on travelling via Miami an even better idea would be to buy Air Florida's Liberty Fare. Even with the present exchange rates it still represents amazing value, allowing any 10 regional flights for £169 over 15 days or £219 over 30. You have to buy the Liberty Fare here before you set off and transatlantic flights must be with Air Florida. From Miami, you can fly Air Florida to destinations in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Grand Turk, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands and Central America.

Finally, remember that you will need a visa for the United States if you travel via there, and that includes San Juan.

Airlines: British Airways 01-370 5411; Air Florida 01-409 2882. Agents: Stratford Travel Centre (01-519 4921); Nipponair 01-254 5788; Caribbean Travel 01-959 6230; Budget 01-741 8491; Hoffman Travel 01-328 3798. Tour operators: Pegasus 01-370 6144; Tradewinds 01-734 1260; Kuoni 3 0306 885044.

able to decipher the inscription. We stood in a semi-circle around the grave, beyond the wooden church. They were all old men, men of the Harris clan, born out of slavery, and of interbreeding. We were joined by Abraham Burke, another old man. There have all the young men gone. I asked in parody, "They go to Kingston", he said. "They have their heads lifted (educated)."

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Closer study revealed that "most of the runs are beginner blue or moderate red". So far, so good. The slopes, it said in the Global brochure, are "well supplied with little bars and mountain restaurants". Better and better. As a clincher the Hotel Kramerwirt in Mayerhofen, where we elected to stay, has a 24-person jacuzzi. Who could ask for anything more?

As any honest skier will instantly admit there is more to the sport than endless hours of pounding down the piste. All this talk of steep black runs and bumpy mogul slopes probably puts sensible people off. But it doesn't have to be like that at all. There is space in this world for the super-wimp. The real trick is to find a ski region that suits your style, be it keen, not-so-keen, or oh-well-if-you-insist,

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SKI NOTES

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Other operators to this region include Thomson Wintersports, Thomas Cook, John Morgan, Blue Sky, Enterprise Holidays and Inghams.

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Rob Neillands

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13 Dec	Costa del Sol	4	NB	£279
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	3	NB	£284
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	4	NB	£294
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	3	NB	£309
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	4	NB	£319
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	3	NB	£329
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	4	NB	£339
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	3	NB	£349
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	4	NB	£359
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	3	NB	£369
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	4	NB	£379
13 Dec	Costa del Sol	3	NB	£389
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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Shopping list for the winter sails

Sometimes, I have to admit, crossing the Channel adds an unsought-for sense of adventure to a mid-winter break. I have survived some hair-raising ferry crossings, clinging to the gunwales of a bucketing boat in the teeth of the tempest rather than daring to look below decks at others' sickly expressions. On most routes, be reassured, such trials are a thing of the past; bigger, faster boats with better stabilizers limit the risks of discomfort, or at least bring it to an end more speedily, while uncertain sailors can look to cross by hovercraft, knowing that if it is really rough they will not take to the water. Distrust of the crossing is the only conceivable reason for taking winter breaks in Britain rather than France, but even in winter, the seas can be millpond placid. Cheap winter fares on the ferries provide every incentive to take family and car across to France out of season. Hotel prices in Britain (even for the most heavily promoted winter breaks) make it look as though French hoteliers and restaurateurs are running a perpetual winter sale. While the days are short no one will wish to motor far, but there is no need in France to get good meals and comfortable hotel rooms are never far away.

Robin Young



Rustic charm: La Citadelle at Montreuil, near Boulogne

From Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque

Ardes (11 miles from Calais): A small and placid agricultural market town with a picturesque triangular and cobbled Grand-Place and agreeable walks by the lakes and along the double avenue of lime trees to the south. The Grand Hôtel (010 33 21 928431), an old coaching inn based on the main road, has a serious dining room off its courtyard. The menus run from business lunches at 75 francs to the full dégustation at 200. Montreuil (24 miles from Boulogne): a charming walled town made all the more attractive by two excellent and contrasting restaurants. Among the poplars by the river below the town La Grenouillère (010 33 21 060722) is quaint, rustic and idyllic. M Gauthier's cooking is irresistibly delicious - à la carte at about 150 francs. In town the Château de Montreuil (010 33 21 060011) beautifully positioned in its own gardens, is a luxurious outpost of the Roux brothers' school of nouvelle cuisine. Rooms 400 francs, meals 150-210 francs.

From Dieppe and Le Havre

Arques-la-Bataille (five miles from Dieppe): Picturesque feudal ruins and a deep majestic forest. The Manoir d'Archeville (010 33 35 853016) is an excellent Logis de France from which to explore the region.

Close by, at Verus, is La Bucherie (010 33 35 848310) which locals regard as a better restaurant than any of Dieppe's (menus 90-140 francs). Marin-Église, famous for trout, has the pretty Auberge Clos Normand (010 33 35 827011) with its gardens on the banks of a chalk stream (rooms from 100 francs, meals similar). La Bouille (just over 40 miles from either Dieppe or Le Havre): A favourite of Monet and the home of the Norman cheese which bears its name. Close to Robert-the-Devil's castle (now a waxworks), the forest of La Londe, the thirteenth-century church of Mouligneux, and the splendid ruins of Juméges Abbey. The St Pierre (010 33 35 238010) has fine views from its rooms (180-250 francs) and delicious menus (120-180 francs) in its restaurant.

From Cherbourg

Barneville-Carteret (23 miles from Cherbourg): Twin seaside resorts on either side of an estuary with placid walks and sandy beaches. The best hotel is Les Isles (010 33 33 549076). St Jean-le-Thomas (80 miles from Cherbourg): Most pleasant of the seaside resorts around the bay of Mont St Michel, with an excellent Logis de France, the Hôtel les Bains (010 33 33 488420). When that is closed out of season the best alternative is the Relais de la Diligence (010 33 33 618642) at Carolles on the last headland of the Cotentin peninsula (rooms from 45 francs and good meals from only 52 francs).

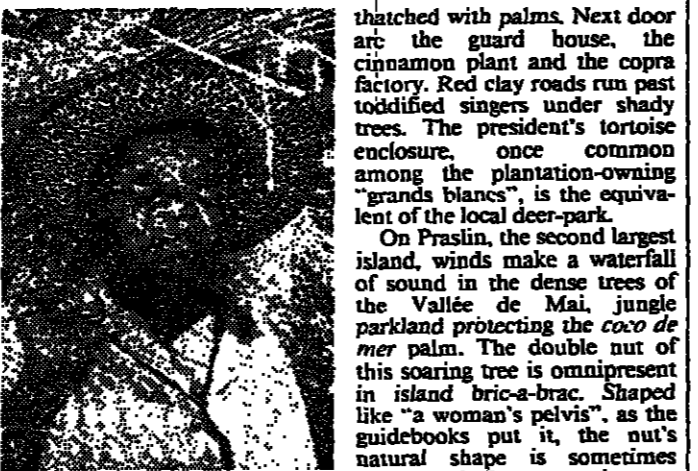
Getting there

Brittany Ferries: Portsmouth-St Malo, Plymouth-Roscoff. Weekend breaks from £30. Five-day returns from £51 for car and two adults. Five-day Go-As-You-Pleasure car touring holidays from £102 a person. Relais and Châteaux hotel holidays from £173 (four nights). Golfing breaks from £102 (long weekend). Seaside apartments from £57 a person a week, with car. Gîte (cottage) holidays with car from £51 a person a week. A winter insurance included free on all winter sailings. Dover-Speed: Dover-Boulogne, Dover-Calais. Sixty-hour mini-breaks from £35 return for car and two adults, five days from £52 for car and two adults. P & O: Dover-Boulogne, Southampton-La Havre. Forty-

eight-hour returns with car from £38 a person; Go-As-You-Pleasure Normandy tours (minimum five nights) with half-board in France-Accueil hotels from £112.50 a person. Selly the Viking Line: Ramsgate-Dunkerque. Sixty-hour stay from £46 for car and two adults. Car and up to five passengers £70 open return. Sealink: Dover-Dunkerque/Calais; Folkestone-Calais/Boulogne; Newhaven-Dieppe; Weymouth-Cherbourg (resumes March). Weekend breaks, Calais or Boulogne from £28.50, Dunkerque from £34. Dieppe from £34.50. Townsend-Thoresen: Dover-Calais, Portsmouth/Southampton-Cherbourg/Le Havre. Weekend breaks by car from £23 a person, children free or half price. Sixty-hour returns from £23 for car and driver to Calais, £32 Cherbourg. Châteaux and water mill hotel tours from £50 each for four adults staying three nights.

Paradise survives tourist onslaught

Few things are more miraculous than an island, rising suddenly in the midst of a vast southern sea. An expanse of moving ocean presses in on a tiny tropical land and aloft the traveller prays that the dread forces of ABTA, IATA and AITO have failed; that the place will not turn out to be another "professional" paradise. For the hard truth is that whatever the romantic literature of travel may say, 10 days' confinement on a green but sanitized island can be a hell of monotony. Several days and several islands later we were unanimous. A decade of tourism had not violated the Seychelles or the Seychellois; and after walking, eating, talking, driving and swimming our way round these Indian Ocean fragments we were not bored. There were palm trees to sit under with the coconut-toddy, drinking local fishermen, but also politics to talk, in this meeting ground of socialism and paradise. There were white beaches to lie on, but also



Homely scenes: A typical Seychellois house and peasant woman. At one time the Catholic Church baptized illegitimate children on Fridays and legitimated on Sundays. The town of Victoria revolves around its clock tower and colonial courthouse against a backdrop of steep green hills. It has a tiny museum, a tiny library whose Carnegie donors might be intrigued by the generous post-revolution stocks of Marxist thought, and enough good restaurants to put Sri Lanka, across the water, to shame. We ate fruit-bait stew (smoked fish at the establishment of the inevitable German who came, saw and stayed). In the market sharks' jaws and shells are sold along with the vegetables amid throngs of beautifully dressed schoolchildren, uniformed Young Pioneers and stringy old ladies in immaculate print frocks. The beauty of the Seychelles is their variety. Granite and coral islands, 96 to 110 of them (depending on the tide), allow for desert isles, mountain rain forests and flat plantation land. Generally the more remote the island, the more untouched it is. A week from Mahe by boat giant tortoises bask in the giant lagoon of Aldabra. The people are a mix too: Descendants of French and British colonists, African slaves, and Chinese and Indian labourers and merchants. The shops of the latter still line Victoria's main commercial street. Mahe encompasses all these features, its mixture of people concentrated in the north and to the south wild rocky shores on which the ocean smashes in a high wind. Fifteen minutes by air from Mahe, then half-an-hour onward by sailboat, is La Digue, an island of rocky outcrops and small pink orchids where President Albert René has his shuttered country house,

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Leslie Plummer. Fare: These range from British Airways via Nairodi first-class return £2,248 to British Caledonian Apec return £588. Packages: Wings £260 bed and breakfast for seven nights; Kuone island-hopper, two weeks £936 half-board. Speedbird sometimes offers three weeks for price of two. Better hotel half-board double £50-£80 nightly, smaller hotels and guesthouses £18-£50. Self-catering small house £250 weekly. Transport: Car hire from £18 daily for small Jeep-like Moke. Buses and taxis good with controlled prices. Return air fare Mahe to second-largest island, Praslin, £22 for 15-minute flight. Food: Creole dishes, smoked and tarare fish and palmiste salad excellent. Meals £5-£20 per person. Souvenirs: Fine shells, some decent batik. Packs: Shorts, T-shirts and flip-flops sufficient. Trousers required only for certain restaurants and discos. Sports gear and bicycles widely available for hire. Information: Seychelles Tourist Board, 4th Floor, 50 Conduit Street, London W1 (01-438 9699).

IN THE GARDEN

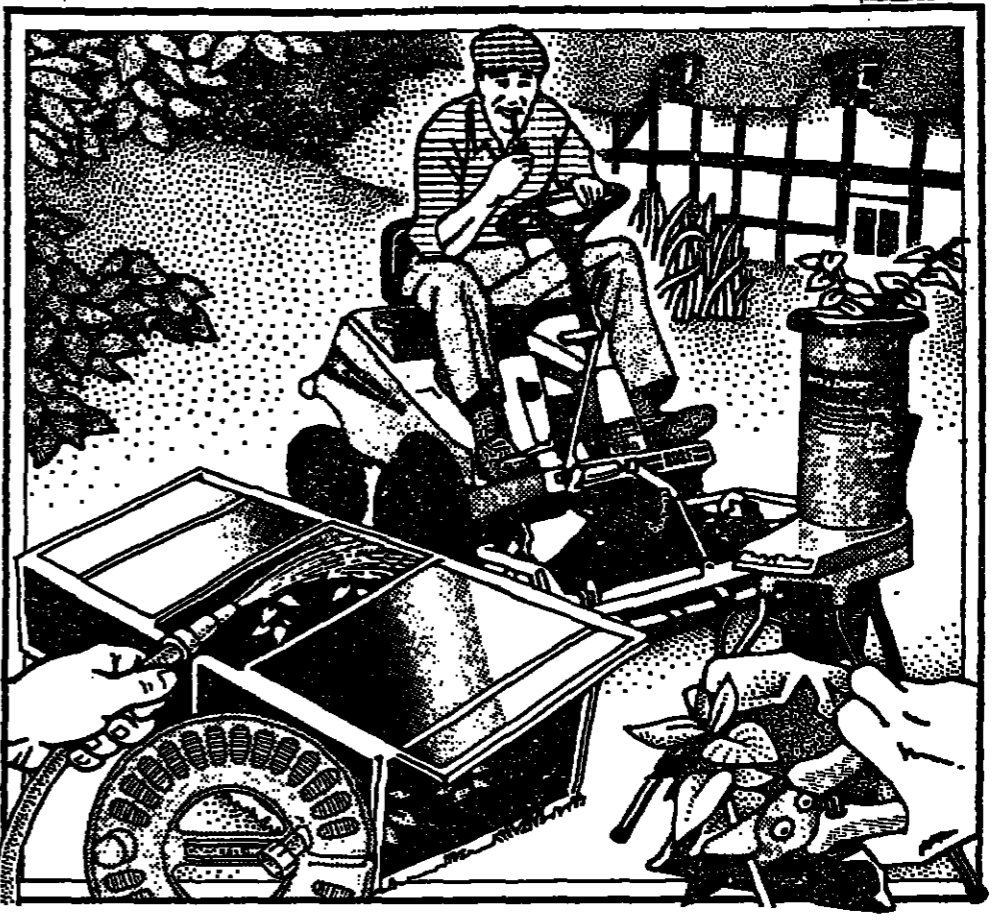
Suitable gifts to plant under a tree

Gardeners are an easy lot to please at Christmas. Anything from a humble plant to the latest ingenious tool is likely to delight them. Books on any number of gardening topics or bought membership to any of the various horticultural societies also offer a useful choice of gift for the enthusiast. Books are especially welcome during the winter when on many days it is impossible to work in the garden.

One of the best this year is *The Armchair Book of the Garden* by David Hessayon (Century, £9.95). It is a light, readable book and although not for the specialist is packed with interesting facts with which to assail fellow experts. A book for the beginner or someone who has passed the novice stage but is still picking up new skills is *How to be a Supergardener* by Alan Titchmarsh (Ward Lock, £8.95). This is an ideal gift for new house owners who are having to tackle a garden for the first time.

Far removed from such practical problems is *Private Gardens of France* by Anita Perre and Gabrielle van Zuylen (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £30). This book is strictly for pleasure and, with the growing popularity of visiting gardens, could add greatly to the enjoyment of trips to France. There are few gardeners who can be called great but the description does apply to Gertrude Jekyll. She has been dead for many years but her knowledge lives on through her books, which are being reintroduced by Papermac (Macmillan paperback). *Wood and Garden* (£6.95) and *Gardens for Small Country Houses* (£7.95) are classics.

Garden societies fulfil a need for the specialist and those that exist cover almost the whole range of plants. Top of the list is the Royal Horticultural Society. Membership costs £14 a year plus an initial enrolment fee of £5, entitling the member to a ticket for the Chelsea Flower Show and visits to the regular shows held at Vincent Square. Details from the RHS, Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, London SW1 (01-834 4333). Membership of the Royal National Rose Society offers good value at £7. Members are entitled to visit the Rose Trial Grounds near St Albans, Hertfordshire, and also receive a



Gift crop: Cassette hose (left), cold frame, mower, shredder, pocket pruner

number of the society's publications. Details from the RNRS, Chiswell Green, St Albans (56 50461). There are also specialist societies dealing with individual flowers such as heathers, iris, house plants and pelargoniums. I am president of the British Pelargonium and Geranium Society and of course have some love for these plants, which give much pleasure throughout the year both inside and outdoors. Write to me at *The Times* if you are interested in joining. Garden tools and equipment provide a vast range from which to choose gifts. One new device on the market designed to make the perennial task of weed killing easier is the Murphy Tumbleweeder, a 39in weeding stick with a cartridge of Tumbleweed attached. It is available from most garden centres at £9.95. Problems of keeping the garden watered were brought home once again this year.

There are many watering systems on the market and one I tried successfully was the Inhome Cassette Hose. It is a double-layered hose with outer and inner tube, does not kink and is easy to store. At garden centres or from Inhome, Sharnston Road, Manchester M22 4TH (061 954 2646). Among many small quality tools on the market is the Wilkinson Sword Pocket Pruner at £6.95, which is ideal to carry round the garden to snip at offending branches. The Deluxe Sword Pruner at £15.95 is a more sturdy tool designed for the full range of pruning. Wilkinson also markets a stainless steel spade covered by so many gardeners, not surprisingly since the work becomes so much easier with such a quality tool. It is priced at £35 but this varies from place to place, so it is worth shopping around. Spear and Jackson, another quality manufacturer, is introducing a lawn mower range, I like the look of the Spearmo

15in Electric Hover, which costs £116.99. It is a robust machine, especially useful in the smaller garden. More effective in the larger garden would be Spear and Jackson's Vitea 808E ride-on mower, which cuts all but the roughest areas and has a reverse gear enabling it to get into largely inaccessible corners. It costs about £1,500. A number of shredders are available to cope with the problem of getting rid of garden refuse which cannot be composted. One which effectively reduces hardwood prunings and herbaceous matter is the Black and Decker Shredder at £69.95. It is electrically operated and takes hardwood up to one inch in diameter. A final suggestion for now is the Europa DIY Aluminium Garden Cold Frame at £32.95. It measures 4ft 2in by 2ft 2in, covers about 8 sq ft and can be assembled quickly. Ashley Stephenson

DRINK Bizarre dealings in the Burgundian sale room

Charity wine auctions are now held all over the world, but one of the longest established, and certainly the most bizarre, must be the Burgundian Hospices de Beaune, which is held every year on the third Sunday in November in the medieval fortified town of Beaune. The original hospice, the Hôtel Dieu, was founded in 1443 by Nicolas Rolin, chancellor to the Duke of Burgundy, and his wife Guigone de Salins. (It is now no longer a hospital but a museum.) Beaune's other great charitable institution, the Hospice de la Charité (now an old people's home), was set up two centuries later, but it was not until 1859 that the first public sale was held. Like many other old European charitable institutions they were endowed with money and vineyards, and it is the grapes from the latter that provide the wines for the Hospices auction. Time and tradition have turned the sale into an extraordinary spectacle. First-time visitors who are used to the packed, formal style of London's wine auctioneers are amazed by the length, noise and colour of the proceedings, and a seat there can at times be better than one in the front row at the Comédie Française. Appropriately enough the presidents of this year's sale were not the usual ambassadors or civic dignitaries but two well-known French comic actors who put on a stirring performance for the Burgundians, reporters and film crews packed into the auction room. Outsiders could easily dismiss the Hospices sale as a tedious, tiresome event: this year, for example, it took five and a half hours to knock down just 87 lots - a feat that Christie's in London could have executed in half an hour. But such criticism would be to forget that the sale is the big Beaune event of the year and the Beaunois are obviously determined to make the most of it. But there is also a serious side to it all, and although the high prices at this charity sale (19 per cent up for the 1983 red wines and 28 per cent up for the 1983 whites) no longer reflect the market price of the new vintage they do nonetheless act as a barometer. The sale also presents a unique opportunity for the Beaunois and others to compare and discuss Burgundy's latest vintage, even though the Hospices wines are then barely two months old. As André Gagey, the charming and much-respected head of the traditional firm of Louis Jadot, pointed out, it is still too early to make a definitive judgment on the 1983 wines. But even so he felt that some of the 1983 reds would be "exceptionally good" and that some of the very best could perhaps even be compared to the legendary 1949 vintage. He was not quite so enthusiastic about the 1983 whites for he likened this "big, full, strong vintage" to the robust ones from 1964. As usual we will all have to wait and see what this vintage will eventually bring. But in the meantime why not keep your spirits up with one of Maison Jadot's latest releases - the charming and velvety 1982 Bourgogne Rouge, Réserve des Jacobins, whose fresh raspberry-redolent taste is a delight (Victoria Wine £4.39). Equally good is Jadot's 1978 Bourgogne Blanc, Réserve des Jacobins, made exclusively from the Chardonnay grape - a bargain at £4.59 from Victoria Wine. Jane MacQuitty

Redskin would be up the creek without it.

No.7 REDSKIN in a series 2 parts bourbon 1 part dry vermouth 2 dashes ANGOSTURA Stir with crushed ice and strain into a cocktail glass. ANGOSTURA aromatic bitters Put a dash in your cocktails tonight. Jane MacQuitty

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... VALUES on presents for children

100 chain-store choices to toy with

ren... e's no ntres... picked home... apron with... discover cream... Judy Pie... album

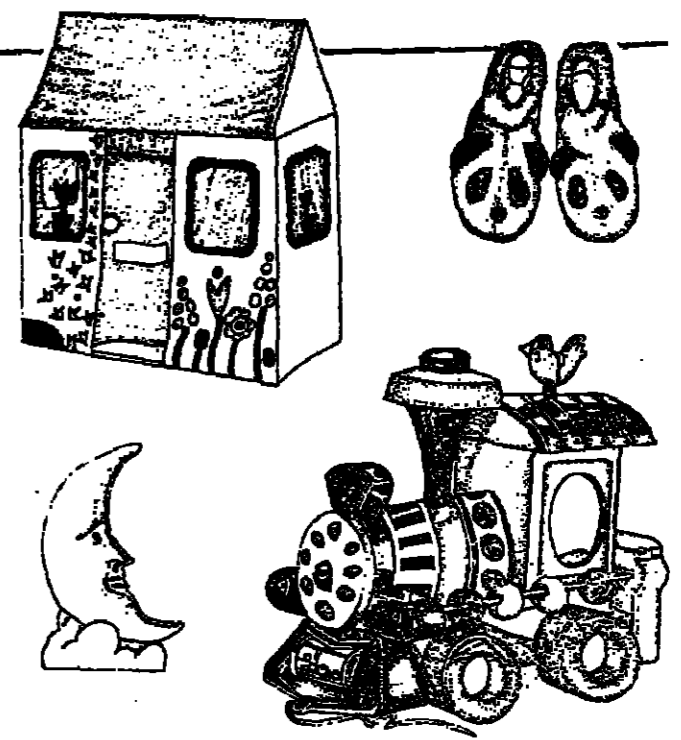
Choosing Christmas presents for the children in your life should be a pleasure, but trips round the toy departments can often leave you feeling frustrated and bewildered.

- UNDER FIVES
1 Big Chunky Chug-Chug see-through locomotive, with appropriate sound, £5.99, Debenhams.
2 Large fluffy grey seal, made in Israel, £12.99, Debenhams.

- 7 Small wind-up helicopter by Jimson, excellent stocking-filler, 99p, John Lewis.
8 Traditional wooden hand-carved rocking horse, 27in high (for a very special child indeed), £17.5, John Lewis.

- 16 Tin drums are now making a return to popularity: the FMT one made in Japan is especially attractive, £3.99, House of Fraser.
17 Any small child just starting out on the big adventure of play school would be reassured by Lucy Goes to Play School, 50p, one of a range of St Michael books for children of various ages, Marks and Spencer.

- 22 La Bête is a chunky, brightly coloured bike for three-to-six-year-olds, it has a big seat, and rakish handlebars, £35.95, Habitat.
23 First wheels of all could be a Little Lamb tricycle by Raleigh, for two and three-year-olds, about £15, from Raleigh stockists.



- FIVE TO EIGHT
1 Highly popular this year are the Action Man Action Force figures by Paltoy: the force grows into a complete battleground with tanks, space weapons, goodies and baddies: Milton, one of the enemies, costs £1.80, most department stores.

- 13 Magic Slate, where drawings and numbers easily disappear, by Jaker, £1.95, from John Lewis.
14 Electric Puffer fussy figures for an enthusiast: Mr Jeremy Fisher costs £18.95, House of Fraser.

- 20 The Auto Scooter, a new idea this year, consists of two fairground dodgem cars with flashing lights, that work on any surface, £4.99 the pair, Debenhams.

- EIGHT TO ELEVEN
1 Logo Technik sets for space-age toys include many new designs this year, suitable for nine years upwards, from £11.85, Debenhams and other stores.

- ELEVEN TO FOURTEEN
1 The Royal Year by Tim Graham describes a year in the life of the Royal Family, £1.99, Guinness Sporting Facts, for those who want to be sure, £3.25, Marks and Spencer.

- 19 The Chroma special agent pen writes in invisible ink, 70p, most department stores.
20 The Auto Scooter, a new idea this year, consists of two fairground dodgem cars with flashing lights, that work on any surface, £4.99 the pair, Debenhams.

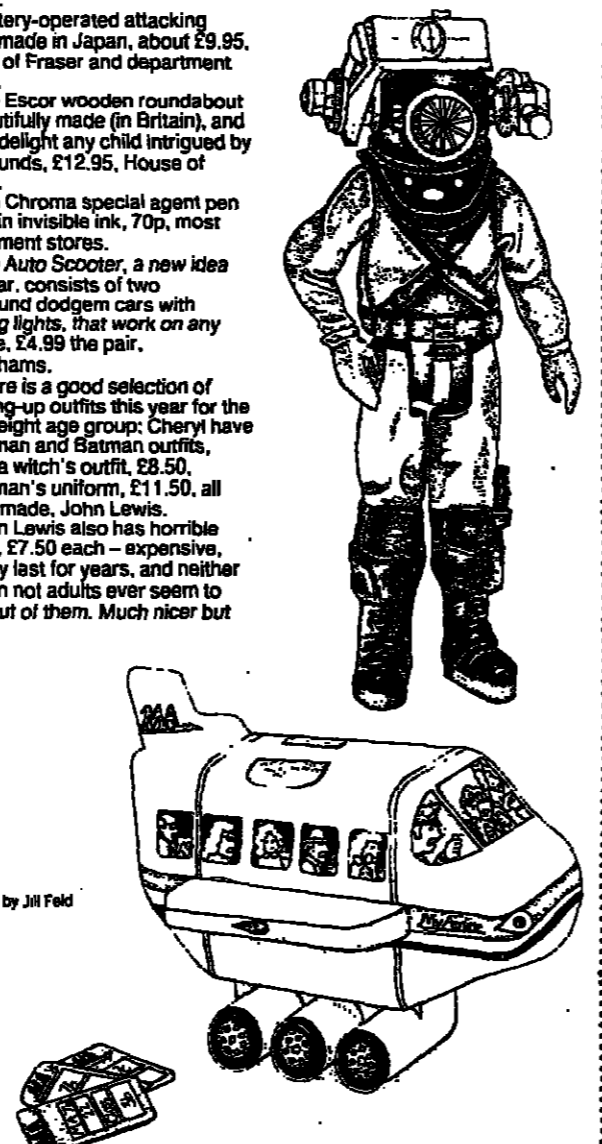
- 21 There is a good selection of dressing-up outfits this year for the five to eight age group: Cheryl have Superman and Batman outfits, £8.95, a witch's outfit, £2.50, policeman's uniform, £11.50, all British made, John Lewis.

- 24 Good stocking fillers, ladybird bracelet, with red ladybird and green beads, 49p; mini-maze games, 49p to 79p each, John Lewis.
25 Aluminium kitchen set, with lots of mini pots and pans, £1.55, John Lewis.

- 10 The answer to that plaintive cry over Christmas holidays, What Can I Do today? lists dozens of exciting projects, published by Purnell, £3.50 from most stores.

- 14 Essential BMX gear: helmet £15.50, goggles £5.50, gloves £3.50, jacket £15, trousers £32, Raleigh stockists.
15 For girls, the Raleigh pink Bianca bike costs £75.

War and peace: Milton, one of the Action Force figures (1), and My Airline (7), a gentle introduction to flying



Experts expound on the proof of puddings

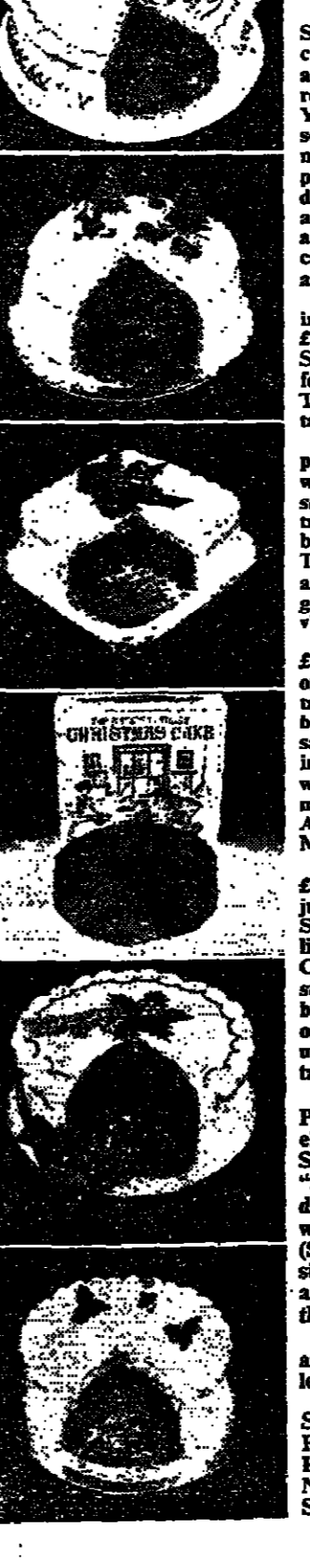
Welcome to our Great Pudding Hunt. Traditional Christmas takes so much time to prepare that fewer people every year are willing to shred and chop and stir and boil when there are so many ready-prepared alternatives.



pudding was which, but for ease of comparison, they are now listed in alphabetical order. "Oh, Harrod's!" GC said with the look of a man who has bitten into an unripe persimmon. "It tastes of artificial lemon essence and too much of it. It's got a household cleaner taste."

St Michael: Immediate approval of its roundity and aroma. "That smells more like it," SCP said, "good and spicy." RY: "It looks expensive - the first one with cherries and nuts I can taste - a lovely after flavour." Amy, halfway through chewing a whole cherry, waved her spoon imperiously and said "I prefer that one (Harrod's) but I like that one (Marks & Spencer) just as much."

Cutting comments that really take the cake



Six of the pudding-makers we chose also offer cakes, so we asked Shona Crawford Poole to represent the cooks and Robin Young the customers in a second tasting. Appearance was more important than in the puddings (which could be dressed up with holly and set alight to cover inadequacies) and smell, taste and texture of cakes, marzipan and icing were all taken into consideration.

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Thursday's child full of power and promise

Stockhausen: *Donnerstag aus Licht* Various performers/Stockhausen (Deutsche Grammophon 2740 272, four records)

There can be no doubt that records exist, like books, to publish what is importantly achieved among us, and Stockhausen's seven-opera cycle *Licht* looks like being one of the most remarkable achievements of this fin de siècle. *Donnerstag*, "Thursday's entertainment", is the only part of the heptalogy yet completed, and no doubt its meaning will be clearer and richer when it can be understood in context. What is already very evident, though, is that Stockhausen has the inventive power and the long-term planning to sustain such an enterprise. He also has the capacity for bewildering variety. *Donnerstag* includes everything from great ceremonial fanfares to tentative pieces of vocal chamber music, from a trumpet concerto to vast choral frescoes. It even goes all the way from genius to insanity.

Critic's choice Paul Griffiths

will already have it, and even the most convinced Wagnerophobe may be persuaded by Bernstein's wholesale engagement in the score, as well as by Hildegard Behrens' wildly active Isolde. Pater Hoffman is as golden a Tristan as exists at the moment, but the main interest is in the soprano and in the deeply felt accompaniment.

Brahms: 21 Hungarian Dances Vienna Philharmonic/Abbado (Nonesuch/Grammophon 2560 100) Celebrating the other great anniversary of the year, the Vienna Philharmonic have a ball, and Abbado takes his task seriously enough for this to be a justifiable choice against all the other volumes of the Deutsche Grammophon Brahms Edition.

Also recommended **Francis Symphony Orchestra** National Bernstein (Deutsche Grammophon 2532 050, compact disc 400 070-2)

This has been the year of the compact disc, whose clarity is a special benefit in letting one hear Bernstein's driving, impassioned live performance of a work now enjoying welcome rehabilitation.

Mozart: Così fan tutte Soloists, Vienna Philharmonic/Muti (EMI SLS 1435183, three records) A festival opera: the recording was made at Salzburg last year, and it captures the glamour of huge talents working at a keen pitch of excitement and understanding. It is also intimate, drama in magnificent song, the cast being led by Margaret Marshall, Agnes Baltsa and Francisco Araiza.

Boulez: Pli selon pli Bryn-Julson, BBC Symphony Orchestra/Boulez (Erato NUM 75050, two records) *Pli selon pli* is a musical voyage into the mind of Mallarmé, but it is also the biggest thing Boulez has yet done: a constellation of five movements for soprano, chiming percussion and orchestra lasting well over an hour. The new recording lingers over its sumptuous beauties.

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde Soloists, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra/Bernstein (Philips 6768 091, five records) The Christmas present for anti-Wagnerians, since anyone else



Musical stares: The look of the masters. From left, Stockhausen, Liszt, Glass, Bizet, Strauss, Boulez and Monteverdi

Ravished by moving in glittering circles

Critic's choice John Higgins

Bizet: *Carmen* Baltsa/Ricciarelli/Carreras/Van Dam; Berlin Philharmonic/Karajan (Deutsche Grammophon 2741 025, compact disc 410 088-2 GH 3, both three records)

It has been the year of the compact disc, whose clarity has the difference in sound quality between these gleaming silver circles and the conventional black disc been more evident than in Deutsche Grammophon's *Carmen*. And any recording deficiencies too, the cynics would add. The error of using a double cast, one to sing and one for the spoken dialogue, comes out all too clearly. But there is Baltsa's animal *Carmen*, Carreras's romantic Jose and above all Karajan and the Philharmonic. A set to ravish the ear.

Also recommended **Massenet: *Manon*** Corubas/Kraus/Cuicco/Van Dam; Toulouse Capitole Orchestra/Plasson (EMI SLS 1731413, three records, cassette TC-SLS 1731415)

IF EMI had managed to bring out Massenet's *Manon* on compact by the end of the year then it would have been a

challenger for first place. It was possibly the most imaginatively cast opera set of 1983, with Corubas as a natural in the title role and Kraus, as seductively voiced as ever, as Des Grieux. Once again the orchestra, the Toulouse Capitole under Plasson, is outstanding.

De Falla: *El Trío*, El Amor Orquesta Sinfónica de Montréal/Dutoit (Decca compact disc 410 008-2)

Back to compact and one of the most exciting orchestral recordings of the year, both in terms of interpretation and pure sound. Charles Dutoit's reputation is not sufficiently high in this country, or in his native Switzerland for that matter. His control of the Montréal Symphony on this record should help make amends.

Offenbach: *Pomme d'Api*, Monsieur Chouffleur, Mesdames de la Halle Mespilé, Lafont, Fazzino, Mouny, Carasso, The Philharmonic/Rosenthal (EMI SLS 1731743, three records, cassette TC SLS 1731745)

Stage performance does not always transfer well, but in this triple bill EMI have achieved it with a little discreet tinkering with the cast seen at Paris's Salle Favart in *Five Offenbachs*. Great verve here from the Monte Carlo orchestra under Manuel Rosenthal and thoroughly stylish performances all round.

Verdi: *Falstaff* Bruson/Ricciarelli/Nucci, Los Angeles Philharmonic/Giulini (Deutsche Grammophon 2741 020, cassette 682 020)

It would like to have included in this list Sinopoli's opera debut on record *Nabucco*, which was not as well received as it should have been in some quarters. But the fifth place has to go to Giulini's interpretation of *Falstaff*, wide and autumnal. There are some casting weaknesses, but it is for Giulini himself, in a year which seems to have gone to conductors rather than singers, that I chose this set.

Opera on Record II edited by Alan Blyth (Hutchinson, £15) Having been rather greedy in choosing complete opera for four of the five places, I will be a little more modest and select a book for the sixth. Alan Blyth's survey has moved into volume two this autumn, with volume three promised next year. There is no need to agree with all his contributions, although some are beyond reproach, but this is an invaluable reference book, scrupulously edited.

At last, a singer fit for the songs

Richard Strauss: *Four Last Songs* Norman/Masur (Deutsche Grammophon 2532 050, compact disc 400 070-2)

Not since Kirsten Flagstad has there been a voice on record to bring the full vigour and richness of the lower register to support and charge the extraordinary sense of suspended time and texture within Strauss's *Four Last Songs*. Jessye Norman can do this, and much more. Her response to the songs is distinctive and penetrating, as she fuses sensuous sound quality with acute musical intelligence, judging the precise pressure and colour of each word and shaping each phrase with Kurt Masur's live, commanding soprano of Frederica von Stade and the deft piano playing of Jean-Philippe Collard in a satisfyingly balanced selection of songs early and later, popular and less well known.

Liszt: Schubert Songs Transcriptions Jorge Bolet (Decca SXL 7569) Liszt's own response to Schubert, our remembered responses to his songs and Jorge Bolet's own obvious delight in the transcription as a form fuse together in 12 performances (including "Die Forelle", "Wohin?", "Erkönig") which are no mere virtuoso showpiece but scintillating recreations of the imaginative insight of both composers.

Chausson: *Poème de l'amour et de la mer* Méliès/Norman/Armin Jordan/Quartette et Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo (Erato NUM 75059) A record as valuable for bringing more separate Chausson songs, including his "Chanson Perpetuelle", back into the catalogue as for the thoroughly idiomatic proportion between restraint and opulence in its intuitive, full-hearted vocal and orchestral responses.

Critic's choice Hilary Finch

Two complete Cinderellas have recently filled a gap in the catalogue: with its urbane phrasing and brightly characterful woodwind detail, this version captures most clearly *Cinderella's* and Prokofiev's double vision of the ironic adult and the wide-eyed child, and conveys in its very poise the fragility of the thread connecting the two.

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Britten: *Our Hunting Fathers* National Opera Orchestra (EMI ASD 4387) Not before time, a female-voice recording, as first conceived by Britten, of his startlingly ingenious and harrowing settings of Auden on man's inhumanity to man and beast. Richard Armstrong whips the WNO Orchestra into vivid support here and in the delightfully orchestrated folksong settings on the other side.

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Flourishing arts of earlier centuries

Ce Diabolico Chant The Medieval Ensemble of London (Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium DSD 704) Monteverdi: *Il Ballo dello Ingrate*; Legrime d'amante Les Arts Florissants/William Christie (Harmonia Mundi France HM 1108) Bameux: *Les Bénédictes* Soloists, Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists/John Eliot Gardiner (Erato STU 715343, three records)

With the temporal boundaries of early music becoming ever wider, it would be invidious to choose between these three superb additions to our understanding of the fourteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Medieval Ensemble's command of the incredible intricacies of the French repertory between Machaut and Dufay is unrivalled. Les Arts Florissants, this year's big discovery among vocal ensembles, brings a wholly distinctive flexibility and expressive rhetoric to two of Monteverdi's finest works; and John Eliot Gardiner's long espousal of Rameau's last opera bears fruit in a completely worthy recording, both exciting and moving, an apt celebration of Rameau's tercentenary.

Also recommended **Bach: Brandenburg Concertos** The English Concert/Trevor Pinnock (Archiv 274003, two records)

Critic's choice Nicholas Kenyon

Also recommended **Mozart: Symphonies Vol 6** Academy of Ancient Music/Christopher Hogwood and Jaap Schröder (Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium, D172D4, four records) Pachelbel: *Bach, Handel, Vivaldi* Musical Ensemble Cologne/Reinhard Goebel (Archiv 2586 127)

Better recordings of these pieces will doubtless be made, but this year both Pinnock's Brandenburgs and the final group of Pachelbel's Mozart symphonies marked a new technical virtuosity and an ever-advancing command of stylistic practice for English players. The most brilliantly enjoyable period-instrument performances these days, however, come from the Cologne group on their exhilarating sampler.

Also recommended **Liszt: Piano Works** Claudio Arrau (Philips 6766 355, seven records) **Martin: Symphonies** Václav Neumann/Czech Philharmonic (Supraphon 1410 3071-4, four records) **Edith Piaf: Piano Works** Charles Rosen (Etcetera/Conifer ETC1008) **Koyunbasari** Philip Glass Ensemble (Island IST44) **Beethoven: Piano Sonatas** Egon Petri (decca/Arts DAB012)

Also recommended **Francis Symphony Orchestra** National Bernstein (Deutsche Grammophon 2532 050, compact disc 400 070-2)

This has been the year of the compact disc, whose clarity is a special benefit in letting one hear Bernstein's driving, impassioned live performance of a work now enjoying welcome rehabilitation.

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Subtle declaration of independence

Bernard van Dieren 1887-1936 Eiluned Davies (British Music Society cassette BMS402) Though he spent most of his life in Britain, Bernard van Dieren is an extremely remote figure, and is almost ignored in surveys of British music between the wars. Yet despite a long struggle against ill health, he produced a considerable number of scores of almost disconcerting independence. Eiluned Davies plays three piano works, the Sketches (1910-11), Toccata (1912) and Variations (1927), and it is characteristic of this composer

that each has its own distinct identity. The harmony and in the earlier pieces, the complex textures are especially personal. These works all possess, too, both imaginative richness and a strong intellectual element. The performances, at present available only on cassette, are not such as to turn the tide of

neglect, but they should arouse curiosity about van Dieren, and as such are worth giving prominence to here.

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PREVIEW Guide to holiday services

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The traditional festival of nine lessons and carols now competes in popularity with the newer Christmas service, often held in aid of the Church of England Children's Society.

The Chingle is an orange, symbolizing the world, pierced with four sticks of fruit (the seasons) and a candle (the Light of the World), tied with a ribbon (the blood of Christ). During the service children receive Christmases as thanks for their collections for the society. Then the candles are lit.

The festival of nine lessons and carols was designed by E. V. Rieu, Bishop of Truro and later Archbishop of Canterbury. It first appeared on Christmas Eve 1880 in a wooden shed that served the three-year-old Truro diocese while the cathedral was being built. Nine carols were interspersed with short lessons read by church officers, beginning with a chorister and ending with the Bishop.

Southwark Cathedral: Dec 18, 3pm, carol service. Dec 21, 12.45pm, lunchtime carol sing-in with Lord Miles.

Southwark Metropolitan Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 21, 7pm, carols, readings, dance and tableaux.

Westminster Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 20, 7.30pm, carols and readings by candlelight, attended by Princess Anne.

Westminster Abbey: Dec 26, 3pm, Evensong with carols and procession. Dec 28, 3pm, procession and carols.

Central Hall, Westminster (Methodist): Dec 18, 6.30pm.

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, EC1 (Methodist): Dec 14, 12.45pm, carols with Southlands College Choir. Dec 18, 11am, Christmas service.

YMCA, Queen Mary Hall, Great Russell Street, WC1: Dec 18, 6.30pm, Salvation Army carol service.

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen Cathedral: Dec 24, 11pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Aberdeen Cathedral (Episcopal): Dec 18, 4.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Edinburgh, The High Kirk: Dec 18, 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols, the lessons read by Tom Fleming.

Edinburgh Cathedral (Episcopal): Dec 24, 7.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 18, 4pm, carols and readings.

Cardiff, Conway Road Church (Methodist): Dec 18, 6.30pm, carols by candlelight.

Cardiff City Hall: Tomorrow, 8pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Llandaff Cathedral: Dec 24, 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Llanelli Entertainment Centre: Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Newport Cathedral: Dec 23, 7.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St Asaph Cathedral: Dec 17, 3pm, Christmas service. Dec 18, 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St David's Cathedral: Dec 25, 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Swansea, Brunswick Church, St Helen's Road (Methodist): Dec 18, 11am, Christmas drama and music; then 6.30pm, carols and readings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Armagh Cathedral: Dec 18, 3.15pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Armagh Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 18, 7pm, carols and readings.

Belfast Cathedral: Dec 18, 3.30pm and Dec 24, 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Belfast, Cregagh Church (Presbyterian): Dec 18, 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Belfast, Fishewick Church (Presbyterian): Dec 18, 7pm, candlelight carol service.

Belfast Salvation Army, Cregagh Road: Dec 18, 6.30pm.

Lurgan Salvation Army, Union Street: Dec 18, 6.30pm.

WALES

Bangor Cathedral: Dec 22, 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Brecon Cathedral: Dec 24, 3.30pm, carols and blessing the crib. Jan 1, lessons and carols.

Edinburgh, Usher Hall: Dec 18, 8.30pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Dundee Cathedral: Dec 24, 11.30pm, midnight carol service.

Glasgow Cathedral: Dec 24, 11.15pm, midnight carol service.

Glasgow Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 21, 7pm, carols and readings.

Rutherglen Old Parish Church, Strathclyde: Tomorrow, 3pm, Salvation Army carol service.

PREVIEW Galleries

NATURAL HISTORY IN ART

Exhibition on the evolution of zoology, the creation by laser of three-dimensional images which enables objects to float in space. It was invented 36 years ago by Denis Gabor but only now is its potential starting to be realized. As well as having important commercial and industrial applications, it may be said to constitute a new art form.

REG BUTLER (1913-1981) The Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (S21 1313). Until Jan 15, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. This memorial exhibition, the first survey of the sculptor's career, includes more than 100 sculptures and drawings. After a late start his work developed considerably, from

stripped black iron figures of the late 1940s to four large murals female nudes, with real hair, completed in the 1970s and now exhibited together for the first time in Britain.

RAOUL DUFY Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (S28 3144). Until Feb 5, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm. Running concurrently with the exhibition of Hockney photographs is the largest survey of Dufy art ever staged. The radiant and optimistic painter of yachts, regattas, racetrack scenes and harvests is represented by several paintings not seen before in England, while four large murals commissioned by Guy Doyen for his villa at Antibes are being given their first public display.

THE GENIUS OF VENICE 1580-1600 Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until Mar 11, daily 10am-6pm. The sixteenth century was the most glorious epoch for Venetian art. Carpaccio's painting "The Lion of St Mark" symbolizes Venetian power and introduces an exhibition of 300 masterpieces drawn from collections throughout the world.

POLITE SOCIETY BY ARTHUR DEVIS National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (930 1552). Until Jan 29, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Arthur Devis painted portraits of the English country gentleman and his family grouped informally in the drawing room or set against the backdrop of the family estate. His gentle "conversation pieces" contain meticulously observed detail and reflect the contemporary preoccupation with the social grades in the eighteenth century.

THE MAY BLITZ Open Eye Gallery, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool (051 709 9460). Ends today, 10am-5.30pm in April and May 1984. Liverpool suffered horrendous bombing by the Germans in 1941. 4,000 people were killed and injured and 20,000 houses destroyed or damaged. The 120 black and white photographs in this show, drawn from a number of sources, look without nostalgia at the appalling suffering and destruction.

HOCKNEY'S PHOTOGRAPHS Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (S28 3144). Until Feb 5, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm. Audacious, arrogant but wonderful composite colour constructions that seem to sprawl over acres of wall space. David Hockney expands the limit of traditional photography.

Galleries: John Russell Taylor Photography Michael Young



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PREVIEW Theatre



Guest stars: Ramolakhene (left), John Kani, Duart Sylvain of Johannesburg's Market Theatre Company 'Master Harold... And The Boys', at the Cottesloe until Feb 25

Critics' choice

Stretching from 1945 to the present, David Edgar's vast chronicle play probes the British Left's loss of direction and watches two characters changing political colour from red to blue...

Out of Town

Cambridge Theatre Company production on tour, with Patsy Rowlands, Peter Sallis, Patrick Drury, Terry Peake-Jones, directed by Bill Press...

Legal minefield in never-never-land

"Never", Sean Connery used to say when asked to play James Bond again after relinquishing the role in 1971. Yet here he is older, less jaunty, but still primed for action...



Bond is back: Sean Connery returns as 007 (left) and he's just as cool as he ever was

The film opens in Britain on Thursday after months of post-production delays and years of lawsuits, involving the trustees of Ian Fleming's will...

Schwartzman insisted otherwise. The plot certainly seems familiar: villains of Spectre, determined to hold the world to ransom, steal two cruise missiles...

Critics' choice

A magnificent distillation of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition; the screen throbs with passionate acting, opulent decor...

Films on TV

It may seem surprising that the first serious attempt to film D H Lawrence was not until 1960. After all, the cinema had not been slow to exploit the screen potential of other leading novelists...

Part of the reason was the frankness of Lawrence's writing and particularly his treatment of sex, which could not be reflected in the cinema until censorship was relaxed...

Never Say Never Again opens in London on Thurs at the Warner West End, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Studio Oxford Circus...

Critics' choice

A selection of films from the festival, including Shyam Benegal's Market Place, Ken MacMillan's Ghost Dance and Henry Jaglom's Can She Bake a Cherry Pie?

loving circles

ic's choice in Higgins for first place. The most imaginative set of 1983. A natural in the Jaus, as someone in the orchestra, Capitol under standing.

Dance

TWYLA THARP Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Wed Dec 22 (not Sun) at 7.30pm. Twyla Tharp's company of superb dancers (big personalities, perfect teamwork, dazzling bravura and devastatingly casual manner)...

Concerts

CELTC TRYPTYCH Today, 7.30pm, St Paul's, Covent Garden, Bedford Street, London WC2E 8BS (527). The Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra, conducted by both Richard Dickens and Brynlyd Clark...

Rock & Jazz

Playhouse; Thurs, Glasgow Apollo; Fri, Queen's Hall, Leeds. Boy George's attempts to start a public row with his former pal 'Marilyn' deserve the attention of a latter-day Hedda Hopper...

PREVIEW Music

will play Ravel's solo piano music on January 17. Varese's Ocotarda, Ecuatorial and Desert surface at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on January 20, when both composers' settings of Verlaine's 'Un grand sommeil noir' will be juxtaposed.

Opera

COVENT GARDEN The Esclarmonde of Massenet that people love to hate is all that's on offer at the Royal Opera this week. If you want to enjoy the opera or the performance of Dame Joan Sutherland for whom this production was created, then take it rather than leave it. Otherwise stay away until Fidelmarcos arrives on Dec 19, (240 1068).

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 220)

Prizes of the New Collins Concise English dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 15, 1983. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coler Street, London WC9 9Y. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 17, 1983.

Entertainments

What's new on the GLC South Bank?

GLC South Bank Concerts, Barbican Road, London E14 6BB
 Tickets 01-928 3191. Box Office opens 10 am to 5 pm. Credit Cards 01-928 3191

GROUP DISCOUNTS available for most Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Hall performances, details in monthly diary "Music on the South Bank" or ring 01-928 3002.

STAND-BY SCHEME Tickets at £2.00 for Royal Festival Hall and £1.50 for Queen Elizabeth Hall, available to schoolchildren, students, unemployed, senior citizens. Telephone 01-433 9323. Available one hour before start of performance.

Royal Festival Hall

Open all day to everyone. Free lunchtime music.

Food and drink available.
 GUIDED TOURS of the Royal Festival Hall. Daily at 12.45 pm and 5.30 pm. £1.00 per person. Reservations 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544.

Saturday	10 Dec	4.00 pm	7.30 pm
CHRISTMAS CONCERTS	Vera Lynn, Gillian Humphreys & Young Associates	10.00	12.00
11 Dec	4.00 pm	7.30 pm	
LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA	Stuart Bedford, Iona Brown, Alan Schiller	10.00	12.00
12 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
13 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
14 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
15 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
16 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
17 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
18 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
19 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
20 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
21 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
22 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
23 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
24 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
25 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
26 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
27 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
28 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
29 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00
30 Dec	7.30 pm		
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00	12.00

CRAFT EVENT

On Saturday 10 December and Sunday 11 December. Demonstrations and sales of jewellery, leather, painted eggs, spinners, embroidery, carpets, quilts, etc. Royal Festival Hall 2nd Red Side. Saturday and Sunday from 11.00 am.

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

From the Royal Festival Hall book, record and gift shops in the foyer on Level 2. Open from 11 am to 10.30 pm each day. Visit them for your Christmas gifts and take advantage of the free gift-wrap service. Credit Cards and Mail Order Service. Telephone: 01-433 9323.

THE MUSIC BOX

Saturday 10 December: JAZZ UNLIMITED
 Jazz Quintet, new compositions and standards.
 Sunday 11 December: EL DORADO
 Soul jazz.
 Friday 16 December: CAYENNE
 A synthesis of Latin American, jazz and rock music.

CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In the Royal Festival Hall between 6 pm and 7 pm each evening until Friday 23 December. Charities will be taking part.

I LEONARDO

Until 11 December.
 An exhibition of drawings and sketches by Ralph Steadman for his new and eccentric biography of Leonardo da Vinci published by Jonathan Cape.
 Open to the public from 10 am each day. Upper Foyer.

DRAWN TO BALLET

Until 18 January.
 An exhibition of drawings and photographs by Zdzislaw Robot, arranged in association with the Exhibition Department of the Royal Festival Hall.
 Open to the public from 10 am each day. Riverside Terrace Level 5.

DAVID HOCKNEY POSTERS

Until 31 January.
 An exhibition of a private collection of posters for galleries and the theatre by David Hockney.
 Open to the public from 10 am each day. Upper Foyer.

THE SPIRIT OF LONDON

Awards to be presented by Norman St John-Stevens MP on 15 December.
 An exhibition of the prizes, annual, GLC Painting Exhibition.
 An exhibition of the prizes and a selection of other entries to the GLC annual competition.
 Open to the public from 10 am each day. Main Foyer.

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Saturday	10 Dec	7.45 pm
LONDON ORPHEUS CHOR AND ORCHESTRA	James Goughan (cond) Beverly Hills (solo) Alan Thompson (dir) Anne Barber (sopr) Katherine Topple (sopr) Helen Goughan (sopr) Elizabeth Goughan (sopr)	10.00
11 Dec	7.15 pm	
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA	Marcus Dods (cond) Elizabeth Harwood (sopr) Robert Tear (bar) Alan Curtis (dir)	10.00
12 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
13 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
14 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
15 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
16 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
17 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
18 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
19 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
20 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
21 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
22 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
23 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
24 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
25 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
26 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
27 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
28 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
29 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00
30 Dec	7.15 pm	
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Simon Preston	10.00

Queen Elizabeth Hall

FRIDAY NEXT 10 DECEMBER at 7.45 pm.
PETER DONOHOE piano
 RACHMANINOV: Four Preludes
 BEETHOVEN: Sonata in C minor, Op. 111
 PROKOFIEV: Sonata No. 6 in B flat, Op. 84
 £1.80, £2.50, £3.50, £5.50 ONLY from Box Office 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544. Management: Ede & Teller Ltd.

SATURDAY NEXT 17 DECEMBER at 7.45 pm.
CITY OF LONDON CHOIR CAROL CONCERT
 Christmas Music for CHOIR AND AUDIENCE
 Conducted by DONALD CASHMORE
 FAREY BRASS ENSEMBLE GEOFFREY MORGAN (organ)
 £2. £3. £5. £8.50 ONLY from Box Office 01-928 3191 and the GLC Box Office 01-398 8058 and Agents

Thursday 22 December at 7.45 pm
THE ENGLISH CONCERT
 Director/keyboard TREVOR PINNOCK
 Simon Standage violin David Reichenberg oboe
 CONCERTOS FOR CHRISTMAS
 Vivaldi, Corelli, Albinoni, Bach, Handel, Telemann
 £2. £3. £4. £6 ONLY from Box Office 01-928 3191 and Agents

TOMORROW & Sun 18 December at 2.30 pm.
THE BACH CHOIR FAMILY CAROLS
 PHILIP JONES BRASS ENSEMBLE
 THE KNELLER HALL TRUMPETERS
 David Corlett, Nigel Barnes (organ)
 SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS
 £3. £4. £5. £6. £7. £8.50 ONLY from Box Office 01-928 3191. Management: Ede & Teller Ltd.

Thursday 15 December at 3 pm and 7.30 pm.
CAROLS & CRUMHORNS
 Carols for Choir and Audience
 and Christmas music from medieval times to the present day
 London Oriana Choir London Pro Arte Choir
 £1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £5.50 ONLY from Box Office 01-928 3191. Management: Ede & Teller Ltd.

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ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY
 Conductor: MEREDITH DAVIES
 DECEMBER: SATURDAY NEXT 17 at 2.30 & 7.30
 MONDAY 19 at 7.30
 TRADITIONAL FAMILY CAROL CONCERTS
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 with BARRY BOOTH
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Friday 16 December at 7.30 pm.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: STEUART BEDFORD
 Piano: ALLAN SCHILLER
 Violin: IRVIN ARDITTI PERRY MONTAGUE-MASON
 £2. £3. £4. £6 ONLY from Hall 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544

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BACH MOZART
 BACH: Brandenburg Concerto No 3
 BACH: Concerto in D minor for two violins
 MOZART: Piano Concerto No 21 (Elvira Madigan)
 MOZART: Symphony No 40
 LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: STEUART BEDFORD Piano: ALLAN SCHILLER
 Violin: IRVIN ARDITTI PERRY MONTAGUE-MASON
 £2. £3. £4. £6 ONLY from Hall 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544

Friday 16 December at 7.30 pm.
PHILHARMONIA
 Conductor Laureate: Riccardo Muti
 TOMORROW at 7.30 pm.
SIMON PRESTON
 SARAH LEONARD FELICITY PALMER
 STEPHEN VARCOE
 Philharmonia Chorus
 Corelli: Christmas Concerto
 Vivaldi: Gloria
 Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols
 Poulenc: Gloria
 £2.30, £3.80, £4.50, £5.80, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50 from Hall 01-928 3191

Friday 16 December at 7.30 pm.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY
 Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
 Wednesday 14 December at 7.30 pm.
 Divertimento in B flat K.137 MOZART
 Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola MOZART
 Sinfonia in E flat K.36 MOZART
 Chamber Orchestra of Europe
 Salvatore Accardo director, violin, viola
 Iona Brown violin
 £2.30, £3.80, £4.50, £5.80, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50 from Hall 01-928 3191 & Agents

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER at 3 pm.
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
 JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
 and DANCERS in Costume
 Directed from the Violin by JACK ROTHSTEIN
 ANN JAMES soprano SALLY GILPIN choropleader
 Popular music of the Strauss Family: Operetta, Dance, Tracht, Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Emperor Waltz, Champagne Polka, Blue Danube, Goodbye March, Scharade, The Blue Danube, Die Libelle, Feuertanz, Village Swallows, Songs from Die Fledermaus, The Oyster Barren.
 £1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50 from Hall 01-928 3191 & Agents

TOMORROW at 3 pm
AQUARIUS
 Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY
 CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 See OCH Panel for details

TOMORROW at 7.15 pm
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
 MARCUS DODS conductor
 ELIZABETH HARWOOD soprano
 VIENNESE EVENING
 Name by Justus Haug and Peter Schilling
 Overture: Die Fledermaus, Die Libelle, Scharade, Cards and Laughing Song (Die Fledermaus).
 SCHUBERT: Overture, Entr'acte and Ballet Music from BEETHOVEN: Four Violin Dances
 MOZART: Porgi and Donce (Marriage of Figaro)
 £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £6.50 ONLY from Hall Box Office 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544. Sponsored by Harveys & Berrys

CHILINGIRIAN QUARTET
 a splendidly well-balanced and mutually responsive group. The Times 6 Dec. 1983
BEETHOVEN CYCLE
 NEXT RECITAL: WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER at 7.45 pm.
 for details please see South Bank panel

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

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ENTERTAINMENTS

BARBICAN HALL
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS
01-638 8891/01-628 8795

Handel MESSIAH
SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7 pm

ELIZABETH GALE soprano PHILIP LANGRIDGE tenor
CHARLES BRETTON conductor STEPHEN ROBERTS baritone

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
at the BARBICAN
MONDAY 21 JANUARY at 7.30 pm

Music from the Screen
Programme includes music from Star Wars, Close Encounters, The Entrepreneur, The Magnificent Seven, 635 Squadron, etc.

WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY at 8 pm
Music from Spain
RITUALS AND DANCE

FRIDAY 6 JANUARY at 8 pm
Presented in association with Harrison/Parrot Ltd
BEETHOVEN

PIANO CONCERTO No 4 SYMPHONY No 9 (CHORAL)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CONDUCTOR: NICHOLAS CLEEBOURY

LSO PRESENTS
olivetti
INTERNATIONAL
WEBERN CYCLE
BARBICAN HALL 6-14 DECEMBER

ZUBIN MEHTA
VIENNA PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA
15 Dec Prog. incl. Schubert Symphony No 9
14 Dec Prog. incl. Schumann Symphony No 4

1984
LEEDS INTERNATIONAL
PIANOFORTE COMPETITION
in association with
HARVEYS of Bristol

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE
SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER
5.30pm SHOW TICKETS: £6.50, £5.50, £4.50

RAVEL/VARESE FESTIVAL
conducted by DAVID ATHERTON
Begins on Monday!
London Sinfonietta

BBC Symphony Orchestra
Royal Festival Hall
Tuesday 20 December at 7.30pm

Raymond Gubbay presents
CHRISTMAS CONCERTS
at the BARBICAN
Thurs. 15 Dec. at 7.45pm
London Concert Orchestra

THE MASTERCHORD MANAGEMENT
CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER
MONDAY 19 DECEMBER at 8 pm

THE KING'S SINGERS
CHRISTMAS SHOW
Including 'THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS' by Kenneth Grahame

Special Guests RICHARD BAKER
JENNIFER ISAACS
CITY OF LONDON SYMPHONY
Conductor RICHARD HICKOK

WIMBORNE HALL MONDAY 19th DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

MAUREEN SMITH violin
IAN BROWN piano

Works by Debussy, Beethoven, Messiaen, Brahms
For further details see What's On page 30

THEATRES
CORTINA 5.30-8.00 £3.50-5.00

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR: HOWARD WILLIAMS

WAYNE SLEEP WITH
A DASH OF CHRISTMAS

DONMAR WAREHOUSE at Earlham St
MUSIC SPELLBINDER 2.00 Buffet

BERTIE READING
MUSIC SPELLBINDER 2.00 Buffet

DRURY LANE Theatre Royal
15.30-18.00 £3.50-5.00

"AMAZING ALL-AMERICAN
DANCIN'"

18 HUMAN FLAUNTING TWITCHING
HEAT NATURE OF THE MUSICIAN

DUCHESSE THEATRE S.C.
The Musical

THE MUSICAL
The Musical

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANAL
For a limited season

DENIS LAWSON
Narrator for SWIFT AND

NO SEX, PLEASE -
WE'RE BRITISH

GLDSE
Andrew Lloyd Webber

DAISY DUST OFF
Directed by David Gilmore

GREENWICH THEATRE
The Musical

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE
The Musical

SUFFICIENT
CARBOHYDRATE

THE SLEEPING PRINCE
by Terence Rattigan

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE
The Musical

BUGSY MALONE
On Stage

JOHNS RIFKIN piano
played by Sam Johnson

CHILDREN'S CONCERT
Sentoria of London

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

WAT'S CRICKET
The Musical

STEAM ON THE BIG FOUR
Full details from Box Office

Eating Out

Pampered all the way through a feast

With only 15 eating and drinking days left until Christmas, it is not a moment too soon to plan that special occasion when rivalries and jealousies are forgotten, perhaps, in a collective urge to worship at the altar of hedonism.

To that end, if money is no object, and it seems not to be in this season of goodwill and indulgent bank managers, why not try Ninety Park Lane for a culinary treat?

The restaurant, which is part of the Grosvenor House Hotel, provides exquisite food in what appears to be someone's very expensively decorated drawing

room. You sit on elegant couches or carver chairs while your feet rest on thick pile carpet which seems to dull all sound as well as one's sensitivity at the prices on the menu.

Vaughan Archer, the young English head chef, has combined several years' experience of gourmet demands at Claridges, the Carlton Towers and the Portman Hotel with a desire to use as many fresh and lightly cooked vegetables in season as possible.

When I ate there recently, I began with Les Salades des Champs aux Empanes de Canard (£12.50), a delicate duckling salad which was un-

fortunately swamped in a far too heavy walnut dressing. My companion and hostess chose the Conis de Gibier Sauvage (£3.25), a game consommé with cheese, straws, without any subsequent complaint.

Her main course, which she later pronounced as being excellent, was Friture de Coquilles St Jacques au Persil et Conis de Tomate (£11.50), deep fried scallops with parsley and tomato coulis. For a main course, I chose Grenadin de Veau Savoyard (£13), thick but tender veal ragout with ham and cheese on top served with a cream and mace sauce. As always, the sauce provided much of the interest; this was

adequate but not exceptional. The four vegetables of the day, provided with each main course, were potato cakes, carrots, cauliflower and mange-tout. A bottle of Muscadet de Sèvres et Maine, 1982 (£14.50), provided a suitable, if unremarkable accompaniment.

The restaurant is expensive, but you are pampered by an obliging crowd of waiters and a 'feast of good food. It will be closed from December 24 until January 4, except on New Year's Eve, when a special six-course dinner-dance at £65 a head will take place. (Reservations 01-409 1290).

Michael Crozier

Where to find great galas for gourmets

Other leading hotels in London have the following special events planned.

The Dorchester (01-629 8888) has in Anton Mosimann the most highly reputed of all British hotel chefs. The Terrace Restaurant (fine French cooking) has gala dinner and dancing on both Christmas Eve (eight courses, £40) and New Year's Eve (nine courses, £75). The Grill Room, Egon Ronay's restaurant of the year (English food translated into haute cuisine) is already fully booked for traditional Christmas lunch on £35.

The Hilton International (01-493 8000) is organizing official Christmas parties on December 31 and 22, £17.50 a head, with Christmas lunch and afternoon dancing. Christmas lunch with Father Christmas is £26.50 in the Roof Restaurant and half price for children up to the age of 12. On New Year's Eve a gala ball in the Grand Ballroom offers a seven-course menu, Joe Loss's band and Barbara Dickson in cabaret, £60, while the Roof Restaurant has a gala

dinner dance with Ray Ellington and Music Game, £80. 22 Park Lane on the first floor has a three-course dinner and disco, £38.

The Hyatt Carlton Tower (01-235 5411) has special Christmas lunch and dinner menus from December 14 to 24 - £16.50 in the elegant Chelsea Room, £14.50 in the Rib Room. A four-course gourmet lunch on Christmas Day, with Santa Claus, costs £45 and a traditional lunch in the Rib Room, £32.50. For New Year's Eve the Rib Room gets a South American carnival, £65, while the Roof Restaurant has a gala

dinner dance with Ray Ellington and Music Game, £80. 22 Park Lane on the first floor has a three-course dinner and disco, £38.

The Ritz (01-493 8181) is fully booked for Christmas lunch (£37), but has places for dinner in the evening (£27.50). On Boxing Day the Ritz restaurant will be serving a smorgasbord with music by the Wallace Collection dark blues band, £27.50. There will also be a tea dance, with cabaret, £10.50. On New Year's Eve there is a black tie gala dinner with dancing to Runcible

Spoon, cabaret, Gurkha pipers, fireworks, streamers and novelties, £65. On New Year's Day there is another tea dance, £10.50, and four-course dinner with students' music, £26.

The Savoy (01-836 4343) has carol singers in the courtyard on December 19, Christmas lunch, £35, and Christmas dinner with harp and flute accompaniment in the Grill. New Year's Eve dinner has seven courses, two bands, herald trumpets, and Guards pipes and drums, £75.

The Savoy (01-836 4343) has carol singers in the courtyard on December 19, Christmas lunch, £35, and Christmas dinner with harp and flute accompaniment in the Grill. New Year's Eve dinner has seven courses, two bands, herald trumpets, and Guards pipes and drums, £75.

One restaurant that makes a real effort with Christmas decorations, and is more crowded than ever as a result is Cafe des Amis du Vin, Hanover Place, Covent Garden (01-379 3444), and one that makes a special festive effort with the food is Keats, Downshire Hill, Hampstead (01-435 3544), where an 11-course dinner on Christmas Eve is £28; a similar gastronomic extravaganza on New Year's Eve is fully booked.

Robin Young

Out and About/Fishing

Hooked on the style of a gentleman angler

I once met a fisherman whose appearance could fairly be described as little short of sartorial perfection. This piscatorial Beau Brummell ambled towards the water in a finely cut sports jacket and natty tweed hat. A waistcoat kept out the chill breeze, and as further protection my man had tucked a silk cravat beneath his chin.

So well turned out was he that I would be prepared to swear someone had patiently ironed the beautiful creases in his plastic over-trousers.

This apparition among the mud-caked, grass-stained, shambling individuals that I usually encounter came to mind again when someone mentioned the proximity of Christmas and ideal presents an angler might like to find tucked down his waders.

Now, I have no great desire to look like Jermy Street's vision of the gentleman at play - being myself a mud-caked, grass-stained stambler - but this fellow was not only beautifully dressed, he was also immaculately equipped to fish. And so S. Claus need look no further for a list of my wants.

The two essential pieces of tackle, rod and reel, came from that famous emporium of the great and good angler, Hardy's of Pall Mall. A place of burnished wood and glass cases, the Hardy shop, if one can be so vulgar as to use the word "shop", might be described as the Harrods of the angling world.

I have always had a yearning for rods which can be easily carried and stored ready for use. During the long summer evenings there is nothing more pleasant than to slip away after work for an evening of fishing, but it is wise to leave an

expensive rod exposed in the back of a car all day?

My man was carrying the answer. The rod was a 7ft graphite Smuggler designed to break down into six pieces and fit into a pocket. Light-weight rods made of graphite usually lack the stiffness often needed to cast accurately with a dry fly over a trout in a stream.

Because of the number of spigots the Smuggler has a tighter feel than most light rods and is a pleasure to hold.

If the seasonal powers that be were unable to oblige with the 7ft version on Christmas Day I could be consoled with its 9ft 5in reservoir cousin. Both are available direct from Hardy Bros (Alnwick) Ltd, 61 Pall Mall, London SW1, or from most large tackle shops and Hardy dealers. The 7ft Smuggler is priced at £95.05 and the 9ft 5in at £107.80.

In either case the reel would be a Hardy's Marquis. When I once went in search of a flashy

American reel which was spring-loaded to retrieve line automatically, I was told by an honest tackle dealer that a reel is a reel is a reel. In other words it is nothing more than a receptacle for line and I should save my money.

I had cause to remember his words later when I bought a cheap Japanese imitation of the American reel which collapsed with a very nasty "boing" the first time I used it.

The Marquis is the simple reel made lightweight with precision. There is nothing very fancy about it apart from the rather stylish writing on the back. It would do its job for years to come. The price varies from £32.70 to £36.90, depending on the line size required.

The line used by the elegant fisherman was a Cortland 444, distinguished by its pink colour. Ever since the advent of the plastic-coated fly line the question of colour has kept a

generation of fishing writers and experts in constant employment, and I can already hear the cries of fury.

The essence of the argument is what a trout can see as it rises towards the surface. Bright, unnatural colours are thought to warn the fish of a fly but on the other hand bright colours can be seen more clearly by the angler. Since I do not have 20/20 vision and I like the Cortland's suppleness, I would stake my future on pink and hang the risks. The lines are on sale at most tackle shops from about £16.

Most anglers gradually build up quite a collection of fly boxes, ranging from old cigar boxes to wonderful creations in plastic and foam, but the refuge from Taylor and Cutter had a Wheatley, and a Wheatley for dry flies at that.

The box has individual compartments for each type of fly and each compartment has a little trap door on a spring device. I have the plastic French imitation and last summer the plastic expanded, the doors popped open and several gross of best size 18 Midges disappeared in the wind. The Wheatley box, with 32 compartments, is available at most large dealers for £37.43.

And so we have rod, reel, line and fly box. There is one other thing, however, which the well-dressed angler did not have and which I would like. It is called luck.

My last sight of the man who had everything was a hunched figure being escorted away in the direction of the nearest casualty department after walking straight into a fly line and getting hooked just above the cravat.

Stewart Tendler

Out and About/Steam railways

Enthusiasm preserved despite failure at points

Introducing the subject of preserved steam railways in what is intended to be the first of a series of regular columns, I propose to put nostalgia on one side and talk mainly about the blood, sweat and tears that make it all possible. Not forgetting the money.

Happy all the casual enthusiast notices is that year by year there are more opportunities for taking a ride behind a steam engine chugging through idyllic countryside and boo sucks to British Rail who tried to close the line. If only it were so simple.

The November issue of that excellent magazine Steam World (soon, alas, to be absorbed in a rival publication, Steam Railway) reports several cases of schemes in trouble but stubbornly refusing to go under.

That is the story of the preservation movement these past 20 years or so: boundless determination and love of the subject, somehow overcoming economic logic.

In Derbyshire a body called Peak Rail has been trying to revive the Buxton to Matlock Railway through the Peak District National Park. It is one of the most ambitious preservation projects yet, the restoration of 20 miles of former Midland Railway main line, taking in five tunnels and several viaducts.

Peak Rail has established itself at Buxton and Matlock stations, where locomotives bought from the Barry scrapyard are being brought back to working life. In March the company took delivery of its first complete loco, an 0-6-0 Hunslet. But six months later the future of the project was thrown into doubt.

As a consultant for Peak Rail had drawn up a feasibility study for the line which was submitted to the Peak Park Planning Board. The board's verdict was damning, not only rejecting the study but dismissing it as being "in the realms of fantasy". To its credit Peak Rail rebounded back. Within five days it had prepared an alternative plan, which extended the construction period from two years to five and set lower borrowing

targets. The board has promised sympathetic consideration and the scheme remains alive.

The West Somerset is a different case - an established railway struggling to avoid liquidation. The line is the longest privately run stretch in Britain, a route of nearly 20 miles from the resort of Minehead to Bishop's Lydeard near Taunton. It has only once made an operating profit since it opened and 1983, with traffic down by 20 per cent, will be another year in the red.

The railway reckons that it could run profitably but for the milstone of the annual cost currently £17,500 - which it pays to Somerset County Council. A plea to the council to waive the rent for a few years to give a breathing space was refused and the West Somerset has decided that the only way to survive is to buy the line. The shareholders have been asked to raise a further £135,000. If they fall, closure may follow.

Recent developments on the Mid-Hants or "Watercress" line have been even more dramatic, leading to a dispute over policy leading to the dismissal of eight officials and board members. Part of the former Alton to Winchester route, the line has been dogged by financial troubles which have delayed progress. It finally opened with a three and a quarter mile stretch from

Alresford to Ropley; this year it was extended by a similar distance to Medstead and Four Marks.

The issue before the Mid-Hants company is whether, in its shaky financial position, it should try to consolidate, or go ahead as soon as possible with the final stretch to Alton. Large sums have been raised at the bank to finance completion of the project and the argument for pressing on is to generate revenue to pay the money back.

These are the sort of episodes that have punctuated the history of preserved steam lines since the movement began in earnest in the late 1950s but for all the talk of crisis, no line has actually succumbed. The determination of the people who run these railways is remarkable.

There are now more than 40 steam railways in Britain and they are enjoyed by between three and a half and four million people a year. The preceding paragraphs are not intended to cast a damper, merely to point out that such lines do not function by magic. Next time you take a journey into the past, clambering into a wooden Victorian coach behind a wheezing tank engine, spare a thought for the hours of work that make it happen.

Peter Waymark

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

NATIONAL CAT SHOW: The biggest one-day cat event attracts 2,000 entrants for classes ranging from best in each of the 80 or so breeds to healthiest pet and most beautiful colour.

INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS: Gymnasts from China, Japan, Cuba, the USSR and Britain display their Olympic routines in the Coca-Cola international competition, the first international since the world championships, won by the Chinese, Wembley Arena.

FA CUP: Reaches its second round with plenty of non-league survivors eager to make further progress at the expense of third and fourth division sides.

THE TWO RONNIES: Barker and Corbett are back with a new series and if the mixture of sketches, musical parodies, shaggy dog stories and Barker's marvelous verbal gymnastics is much as before, that is how the customers like it.

THE DAY AFTER: Jason Roberts and Joseph Williams in the film that shook America - a harrowing account of how a Kansas community devastated by a nuclear attack.

Tomorrow

HOPKINS: Peter Gale's one-man show, acclaimed at the Edinburgh Festival, recounts the life of Gerald Manley Hopkins and includes his poems.

SPORTS REVIEW OF 1983: rapid skim through the outstanding moments of the last 12 months is the prelude to the announcement of the thirtieth BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, as usual, by the votes of ordinary people.

Monday

PENDANT ANTIQUITY: Pierced pendants and amulets made in Egypt three or four thousand years ago are included in a sale today and tomorrow.

GENUINE FAKES: Tom Keating is making a bid to succeed in putting the contents of his studio up for sale. There are pastiches of Constable, Degas, Titian and many more.

THEATRE QUIZ: The National Theatre competes against the Royal Shakespeare Company in a quiz devised by Sheridan Morley.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: New comedy series about a middle-aged couple, played by William Gaunt and Patricia Garwood, who are looking forward to each other's under the stars as the last of their four grown-up children prepares to leave home.

OLIVER! Ron Moody recreates the role of Fagin in this revival of Lionel Bart's musical. Peter Cox directs Meg Johnson, Geoffrey Toone, Alwyck (836 6404). Opens today at 7.30pm.

RUN FOR YOUR WIFE: Transmitted from the Shaftesbury Theatre to make way for Aladdin this Ray Cooney written and



Facing issues: William Golding, one of the guests discussing current events in a Sony Bank Show special (Wednesday)



Estimated prices range from £15 to £2,000. Philipps, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (829 6502) at noon.



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directed farce has been playing to good houses for months and the cast is now headed by James Bolam, Ian Ogilvy, Stratford Johns, Carol Hawkins, Hoyce Mills, Helen A. Sam Cox and Stuart Sherwin.

Tuesday

DICKENS DRIVE: Members of the Dickens Fellowship and their associates dressed in Victorian costume ride through London in a coach, leaving Dickens House in Doughty Street, WC1 at 2pm.

CONSERVATION: Sir John Summerson, curator of the Soane Museum and eminent architectural historian, talks about the buildings of the 1930s.

ROUTINE PUNCTUATED BY ORGIES: A phrase originally coined by Aldous Huxley and taken over by Lord Rothschild to describe the work of the Central Policy Review Staff.

THE AERODROME: Rex Warner's thriller from the Shaftesbury Theatre to make way for Aladdin this Ray Cooney written and

the sinister airforce nearby, has been adapted as a television film by Robin Chapman. Peter Firth as a young pilot and Richard Johnson as the air commander lead a cast that also includes Richard Briers and Jill Bennett.

Wednesday

ISLAMIC BOOKBINDINGS: Toolled and stamped bindings, painted lacquer covers, decorated title pages, marbled paper, calligraphy and illustrated folios are exhibited to demonstrate the way the Islamic book was constructed from its beginnings up to the twentieth century.

PHILIP GARNER: The American artist and author of The Better Living Catalogue and Utopia comes to London for three weeks to exhibit his absurd inventions.

CHINESE TREASURES: Important three-day sale of Chinese art begins today. There is an extraordinary group of



Shoes for clumsy dancing partners, sunglasses for the motorist who has everything: Philip Garner's inventions at the Boilerhouse

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: J. B. Priestley's mystery play revived. Alan Strachan directs a cast including David Swift, Margaret Tzack, William Lucas, Patrick Pearson, Jenny Cluysie, Peter Woodward, Sarah Karyon, Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10 (858 7755). Preview today 7.45pm, opens Thurs 7pm.

ARTS REVIEW: Melvyn Bragg and his South Bank Show team switch channels to present the first programme of its kind in which personalities from the arts come together to recall the leading events and issues of the past 12 months.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: The key match tonight is Wales v Yugoslavia at Cardiff. With England, Scotland and Northern Ireland already eliminated, Wales are the last chance for British representation at the finals in France next year.

NIGHTSHOOT: Singer Hazel O'Connor has written the songs and plays the lead in Bob Mason's black comedy about the Government's take-over of television after a major civil disaster.

JAWS III D: Sharks slip into Sea World holiday complex in Florida and terrify the crowds in the new Jaws film, to be screened in 3-D in many cinemas.

FRIDAY: A programme without letters and parcels but the PO Film Unit and its role in the British documentary movement of the 1930s. Led by John Harrison, the uncle of the documentary, the unit was the meeting ground for a remarkable collection of talent.

Chess

Conjuring up a real sensation

The Acorn Computer World Chess Championship semi-finals now in progress at the Great Eastern Hotel in Liverpool.

I use the word prestigious both in its modern and derivative senses, since it needed little less than a conjuring trick to have them played here after the dead-ends resulting from disagreement between the Soviet Chess Federation and the World Chess Federation President.

It would indeed have been a disaster had the chess world been deprived of matches between such fine players as Garry Kasparov, Viktor Korchnoi, Vassily Smyslov and Zoltan Ribli, all of whom had very high Elo ratings in the last editions issued by FIDE in July 1983.

Here is how Korchnoi created a sensation by beating Kasparov in the first game on November 21:

White: G. Kasparov. Black: V. Korchnoi. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence.

Preventing Black from playing B-N5 and so transposing to a kind of Nimzoindian Defence with strong pressure on White's K4.

Now that White has prevented him from playing B-N5 he develops this Bishop too on a long diagonal.

Curiously enough this and the following move do not turn out well for White. He would do better to play B-N5ch.

But this, ruining as it does his pawn structure, is a bad idea, especially in view of what now happens. Correct was 14-0-0.

An excellent pawn sacrifice which, in view of the scattered nature of White's pawns, is purely temporary.

Probably overlooking Black's reply (Kasparov was now under acute time pressure) and thus coming down to a lost ending. He should have eliminated the powerful Knight by 24 BxN.

A fine tactical stroke which wins a pawn and in particular, a passed pawn.

The ending now is a simple win for Black.

White resigns.

White resigns. Harry Golombek

CHRISTIE'S St. JAMES'S 8 King Street London SW1. Next week's sales: 12th at 10.30 am and 13th at 2.30 pm. Important English and Continental Silver, Objects of Vertu and Antique Jewellery.

At home/Photography

Flash of inspiration

There is no better way of immortalizing a Christmas morning filled with excited children, contented grandparents and eager hands exploring presents than by photographing it - if you can get the lighting right.

Of course indoor pictures can be lit with the aid of a flashgun, but there is still the problem of sorting out the balance of flash and camera settings, a procedure made no easier by any amount of Christmas spirit.

Now, however, the age of uncertainty has been replaced by the age of the auto flashgun. These ingenious devices have a small window or "eye" located at the front which goes by the tongue-twisting name of a "thyristor". It is this which does the balancing act... in a flash.

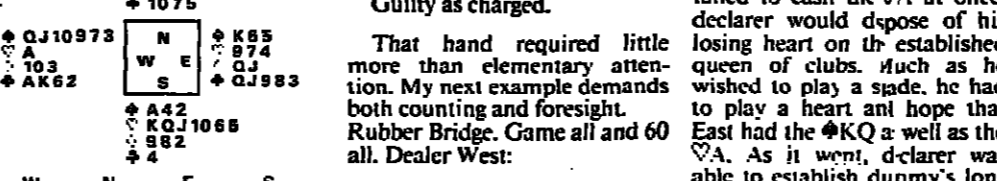
Nevertheless a few pitfalls remain to watch out for. First, check that the shutter is at the correct synchro speed, on some cameras a 60th or 125th of a second, on others indicated by a small bolt-of-lightning symbol.

When it comes to taking the picture, always be sure the thyristor is pointed directly at the subject. Best results are achieved with the flashgun held high to avoid red eyes in colour pictures, or by tilting the head of the flashgun upwards (if it

Bridge

Times when you can count on success

Counting the unseen hands is as indispensable in defence as in dummy play. Rubber Bridge. Game all. Dealer South.



Opening lead ♠A. Few British experts would pass the South hand originally, which makes North's support at the five level surprisingly trusting.

In response to East's ♠Q, West continued with the ♠2. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠A and ruffed a spade, returned to his hand with a club ruff and ruffed the remaining spade in dummy.

West's three club bid is doubtful but it could have recaped a handsome if undeserved reward. If West had led a spade, the defence would have

suggested defence relies on East holding the ♠Q? Certainly, but even the most timorous players open the bidding on

had no difficulty in taking five tricks. As it was, he led the ♠2 and the onus lay on East to find the correct continuation. When he returned the ♠4 the defence was lost.

West foresaw that if they failed to cash the ♠A at once, declarer would dispose of his losing heart on the established queen of clubs. Much as he wished to play a spade, he had to play a heart and hope that East had the ♠KQ as well as the ♠A.

Notice the difference if East cashes the ♠A before returning a club. West switches to a spade, and the ace of diamonds is an insuperable obstacle to declarer's attempts to establish the hearts before the defence can take their fifth trick.

How could West tell? He knew that South had no more black cards. His original distribution could not be prevented from ruffing the third diamond to score the setting trick.

Seeing all four hands, it is easy to see that a diamond continuation would lock declarer in dummy. Then East could not be prevented from ruffing the third diamond to score the setting trick.

The Ideal Xmas Gift for bridge addicts. Jeremy Flint's Bridge with The Times. Only £6.95 post free. A brilliantly structured work which will help the reader to a better appreciation of the game.

Easy to play, hard to beat, impossible to equal. This is quite simply the best chess-playing machine I have as yet encountered and is the only one that has succeeded in taking games off me. - Harry Golombek, O.B.E., International Master, Oct. 1983.

حکذا من الاصل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Japanese faith fans Australian dollar

The Australian Government has bowed to the inevitable and floated the Australian dollar in the foreign exchange market. This week alone £1 billion worth of currency flowed in adding to the £3.75 billion of speculative funds that had taken the exchange rate to a dangerously high level.

The strength of the Australian dollar owes almost everything to the faith the Japanese have in Australia and its economy. Prior to the 10 per cent devaluation of the dollar in March the Japanese had been big buyers and they have sustained their demand since.

The degree to which the Japanese role has influenced events can be gauged from the movement of the Australian dollar against the US dollar. At the time of the March devaluation the rate was 80 US cents to one Australian dollar.

BA take-off delayed

After several weeks of furious speculation, the Government is finally about to give us the first concrete details of its plans for the privatization of British Airways.

More time to ponder

The 79,000 shareholders of Trafalgar House and Peninsular and Orient Steam Navigation are going to have to wait until February to find out whether the unwelcome bid by Trafalgar for P&O has been cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Building societies to set up Isle of Man offshoots

Halifax and Leicester building societies are taking the revolutionary step of setting up Isle of Man societies which will be free to pay interest to investors without deduction of tax.

Opoc pact fails to allay fears

Oil companies are expected to decide next week whether to press ahead with demands for a further cut in the North Sea price of oil.

Abbey fails to win mortgage rate cut

Abbey National yesterday failed to persuade fellow members of the Building Societies Association to lower the mortgage rate from the present 11.25 per cent.

Panel urges Allianz to name price

The City Takeover Panel has asked Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, to name by next Friday the price it intends to bid for Eagle Star.

US airline staff agree to wage cut

New York (NYT)—Eastern Airlines and three of its unions have reached an agreement that is expected to save the airline \$330m (£230m) in wages next year and bring it \$37m in productivity gains.

Employees buy IBM company for £5m

Amari plans return to SE

The majority of Amari's business is in Britain but the group also has small subsidiaries in Canada, Germany and the Netherlands.

Dollar at new peak

The dollar hit fresh peaks on world currency markets yesterday, spurred by higher interest rates and reports that Mr Donald Reagan, the US Treasury Secretary, saw little scope for US rates to fall before next spring.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table with columns for FT Index, FT 100, FT All Shares, and various international indices like Nikkei Dow Jones, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table showing London Close for Sterling, DM, FF, Yen, and Dollar, along with New York Latest and International rates.

GOLD

Table showing London fixed (per ounce) for am, dm, and new gold rates, along with New York latest and Sovereigns rates.

WALL STREET

Lower trend continues

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street stock prices were lower in active trading as the market continued a selloff of recent days.

INTEREST RATES

Table listing Domestic rates (Bank base rates, Finance houses base rate, etc.), Euro-currency rates, and US rates (Bank prime rate, Fed funds, etc.).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greenwell, one of Britain's top 10 stockbroking firms yesterday confirmed the report in The Times that it was in talks which may lead to non-Stock Exchange members taking a significant stake.

Large advertisement for Fidelity Japan Trust featuring a large Japanese character '信' (Fidelity) and the headline 'A word to those thinking of investing in Japan'. It includes text about the trust's performance, investment strategy, and contact information.

Fidelity Japan Trust advertisement containing 'GENERAL INFORMATION' and a form for investors to request more information, including fields for name, address, and telephone number.

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Shares deal

Harrow Building Society is offering 8.75 per cent net of basic rate tax on "Additional Interest Shares" or 8.5 per cent on Monthly Income investments.

Millionaires' card

American Express Bank is introducing a luxury travel service aimed at ultra-rich businessmen holding one of the bank's gold cards.

apply for the service. They will be told if they are eligible.

Late arrival

An offshore managed currency fund from the European Banking Company seems to have missed the boat. It was launched this week - three weeks after the Chancellor announced a clampdown on offshore currency funds.

Trusting in plastic

Plastic money is catching on fast - it is as fast as the banks would like. Figures published this week by Trustcard, Trustee Savings Bank's Visa card, show that there are now 21.6 million credit cards of various types in use in Britain - a rise of 50 per cent over the last five years - and one in three adults is now using them.



Fighting crime

To help combat car crime, Royal Insurance has arranged for holders of its CarShield 30 and CarShield 50 policies to have their vehicle registration number etched into all car windows - free.

policyholder's current certificate of insurance, have their windows engraved. Mr John Simpson, of Royal Insurance, commented: "Last year over 300,000 vehicles were stolen in the UK. Many were never recovered. We hope this service will help prevent some of these thefts, in addition to helping with the identification and recovery of stolen vehicles."

New gilts fund

Yet another gilts growth fund is being launched - this time by County Bank - aimed at the maximization of capital growth by putting investing between conventional and index-linked gilts, says the publicity material.

Whittingdale Gilt Growth, but not so general as some. If you invest over £5,000, the charge drops to only 2 per cent. There is also an annual management charge of a modest 1/2 per cent. The minimum investment is £200.

Peterborough plan

Investors in the small Peterborough Building Society are to be offered facilities rivaling those already provided by the larger ones of the marketplace, like the Halifax.

Signal Life A question of whom investors can sue

Negotiations between insurance brokers who sold bonds for Signal Life, the failed insurer and its professional indemnity insurers will almost certainly come to nothing.

Junior accounts

Woody Westminster a poor deal for lollipop savers

Woody Westminster, Anabel Maxwell, Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel Westminster are a family of piggy money boxes.

NatWest is the last of the high street banks to recognize the potential market among the lollipop investors and it has now launched its package of goodies aimed at persuading children from five to 15 that NatWest is the place to save.

But is a NatWest account good value for money for a child? Looking at these junior bank accounts from a purely investment angle, the answer must be an unequivocal no.

Interest at a miserable 3.5 per cent does not begin to compare with the 11 per cent available from the National Savings Bank investment account or the 7.25 to 8.25 per cent from building societies.

It is not even a good as the 7.5 per cent (plus a free money-saving money box) that Lloyds Bank is offering junior savers.

However, it does have the merit, as do the other schemes, of getting children used to saving and handling their own money, though whether the NatWest incentives will attract new business is difficult to judge.

Children going to NatWest branches with the £3 necessary to open an account will probably be disappointed to discover that they have to fork out £1 straight away to get Woody Westminster the first of the piggy banks.

If £25 is saved within six months of opening the account the child receives the Anabel money box as a reward.

Maxwell, Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel Westminster are handed over at the £50, £75 and £100 targets respectively.

There is a regular newsletter and a starter pack containing a money-tree wall chart, account record book and membership card.

Older children can join NatWest's "On Line" account scheme which encourages them to save for high technology and sports goods available from a mail order handbook.

THE NATWEST PIGGY BANK

A NEW SAVINGS SCHEME FOR CHILDREN

Interest at 3.5 per cent

Free money-saving money box

Free money-saving money box

Free money-saving money box

Free money-saving money box

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Free money-saving money box

reasonable return, you cannot beat a building society account at the moment. Ordinary share accounts with instant withdrawal facilities pay 7.25 per cent and there are many schemes for children on offer.

In the past a building society was not the most sensible home for children's savings as tax is deducted at source and is not reclaimable by a non-taxpaying child. But at the moment the after-tax return is considerably higher than the rate offered by the high street banks which pay interest without deduction of tax.

Bradford and Bingley's Acorn Account features a "money sorting moneybox" similar to the one Lloyds Bank offers junior savers.

Cheltenham & Gloucester has its Paddington Bear account. Bristol & West has signed up Snoopy to promote its children's accounts, while Abbey has its Junior Savers Account.

For school children, building societies have the advantage of being open on Saturday mornings - and appear less intimidating than the banks.

Two tax points to bear in mind - parents who give money to their own children under the age of 18 will find that any income in excess of £5 from the investments, is treated as though it belonged to the parent and added to the parent's income for tax purposes.

Grandparents, godparents or donors other than the child's parent, who regularly give money to a child at Christmas and birthdays, should consider doing this under a deed of covenant.

Every £10 given in this way costs the donor only £7, but is worth £10 in the child's hands. The only requirement is that the donor is not the child's parent and that the giver is a taxpayer, while the recipient (the child) is not a taxpayer.

Do-it-yourself covenant kits are available.

For convenience and a

Lorna Bourke

SAYE Building societies fall behind

How does a building society-linked Save As You Earn contract compare with an index-linked SAYE scheme from the National Savings?

Mr Graham Rummy of Hendon has just cashed in two such plans taken out in November 1978 and has been doing some calculations.

"I took out two SAYE contracts at £20 a month each. For the first I put £1,180 in a share account with the Yorkshire Building Society with a standing order for direct monthly payments into the SAYE account so that the interest accrued on the reducing sum."

"For the second I took out a National Savings index-linked SAYE account with a standing order for monthly payments out of my bank current account," said Mr Rummy.

The amount paid into both SAYE contracts was £1,200. The building society linked scheme produced £1,480 after five years whereas the index-linked version of SAYE produced £1,526.

He also notched up £264.74 in interest on the building society scheme as he deposited a lump sum.

But had he done the same with the index-linked SAYE contract, rather than fund it out of his current account, the result would have been £1,744.74 on the building society scheme, compared with £1,791.50 on the index-linked plan.

Pension plans Early leavers find a champion

Most people's pensions are tied up with their jobs - and that is the problem now under review by the Government.

When people change jobs they leave behind a trail of frozen pensions. The ideal promised by most pension schemes is a pension of two-thirds of final salary - but for most that is a false promise unless they stay in one job all their working life.

An inquiry set up by Mr Norman Fowler, the Services Secretary, is receiving representations and one scheme put forward switches the emphasis so that individuals have the option of a personal pension plan - like the self-employed.

As well as making the scheme infinitely portable - from job to job and from employed to self-employed status - and wiping out the problem of the "early leaver", as the pensions industry calls anyone who ever changes his job, it has an impeccable Thatcherite philosophy.

For the plan being put forward by the Save and Prosper Group gives the individual a high degree of choice. He can choose not only how much to invest beyond the suggested minimum of 12 per cent of earnings (including 6 per cent from an employer in the case of employees).

He can also choose where to invest the money. Save and Prosper in its Blueprint for the

Future suggests there should be a list of approved institutions - building societies, banks, life insurance companies, or approved pensioner trustees.

As well as these indirect investments, personal retirement accounts could also be invested directly in shares. Government securities, bank deposits, unit trusts, or, with professional advice, into land, commodities and traded options.

A self-managed portfolio would have to be kept under the eye of trustees who would be able to veto mad speculation or a leakage of funds.

No more than 20 per cent of earnings would be tax deductible but there would be no limit to contributions. Up to 5 per cent of earnings could be earmarked for a lump sum benefit on retirement, and meanwhile this could be used as security for house purchase or investment in a business.

Save and Prosper acknowledges the help and advice it has had from the Adam Smith Institute and Centre for Policy Studies. It has put the personal retirement account into practice as far as present legislation allows. Save and Prosper's plan has been an instant success with £220,000 in annual premiums coming in during the two months since its launch.

Vivien Goldsmith

But the gilt bond fund had no trustee and the only course of action open to these investors is to bring an action for negligence against the brokers who sold them.

The brokers have been asking for time to make arrangements with their professional indemnity insurers, though several have admitted liability and paid clients in full.

One analyst said: "These people have little to gain by waiting. If they are successful against their professional adviser and he is unable to pay, they can make a claim against the Insurance Brokers Registration Council's Grants Scheme."

Payments under the scheme are discretionary. Mr John Fryer, secretary of the IBRC, said: "There is sufficient in the compensation fund to cover Signal Life claims, but I think preference must be given to those people who have used an authorized UK insurance company". Mr Fryer said: "I would doubt whether professional indemnity insurers regard themselves as being liable in the case of Signal."

Correction: An apology to the Vicar of Enfield, the Reverend Peter Morgan, and to the Reverend William Bowder, the curate of Enfield, whom we wrongly described last Saturday as the vicar.

What's the next best thing to a roll-up fund?

The Henderson Alternative

Soon UK investors will no longer be able to use currency roll-up funds to turn highly-taxed income into less heavily taxed capital gains. If you're a 'roll-up' investor you're probably already investigating alternative homes for your money. And one alternative which deserves serious consideration is the Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust.

This is an authorised unit trust, managed by the £14 billion Henderson Group, and aiming to provide a very high yield from investments in preference shares and British Government Securities. Roll-up investors will find it of special interest because:

Excellent for a Private Investor

Currency roll-up funds have provided good security and have converted modest yields into more attractive gains. The yield on Henderson's Preference and Gilt Trust cannot be converted into a capital gain - but on the other hand it is far from modest. Indeed, at 11.5% gross, it is well above that available on most roll-up funds (and alternative investments) and this difference will help to compensate for the extra tax liability involved.

Unlike roll-up funds it also offers the possibility of some capital appreciation. And so far as security is concerned, since the fund is invested exclusively in preference shares and gilts it is likely to prove a relatively stable investment.

You should note however that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Even better for a Company

As a home for corporate funds, Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust offers an additional major advantage. Income received by the Trust from preference shares is not liable to Corporation Tax. Income is paid to unit holders net with a 30% tax credit. An investment taxable at 52% would therefore need to yield 16.7% gross to achieve the same return.

Invest on favourable terms

Until 30th December 1983, units in the Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust are available at a discount of 1% on the price prevailing on receipt of your application. To invest simply return the application form below together with your remittance - either direct or through your professional advisor.

Henderson Preference & Gilt Trust

11.5% P.A.

Gross estimated yield. Payable quarterly.

Additional Information: An initial charge of 5% of the equivalent to 5% of the issue price is made by the Manager, when units are bought. The Manager's pay commission is qualified intermediate rates are available on request.

To: Premier Unit Trust Administration Limited, Dealing Department, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA.

For details, complete and return the coupon without delay.

Barlow Clowes & Partners Gilt Edged Specialists

Form with fields for Name, Address, Telephone, and Date.

Henderson The Investment Managers

A Roll-Up Alternative

Capital Gains

Barlow Clowes have introduced PORTFOLIO 78 as a realistic alternative for roll-up fund investors. This is what PORTFOLIO 78 offers:

- * An excellent investment service for higher rate taxpayers.
* Security - your Portfolio will always be in a British Government Stock or cash.
* A high guaranteed return, stated in advance.
* The return is a genuine capital gain from the purchase and sale of gilts.
* These gains are not generated by converting accrued interest into capital gains.
* Concise monthly statements.
* Option to take a monthly income.
* Open ended - withdrawals at any time within 2 working days.

For details, complete and return the coupon without delay.

Barlow Clowes & Partners Gilt Edged Specialists

To: Barlow Clowes & Partners Warnford Court, Thornorton Street, London EC2N 2AT. Telephone: 01-588 0838 (24-hour answering service). Please send me details of PORTFOLIO 78 without obligation.

Name, Address, Telephone, Date fields.

How to choose an Investment

The bewildering array of investment opportunities currently available makes it difficult to choose. However, wherever your needs, aims and circumstances, there is an investment vehicle for you.

Menzies Mercantile specialise in helping you to make the most of your financial resources. We help you to define your objectives and devise an investment strategy accordingly. Our service does not stop there: we continue to monitor your investments, advising when to consolidate profits or take advantage of new investment opportunities available. Maximising your profit whilst ensuring your long term security.

Menzies Mercantile is an independent Company, fulfilling the needs of the medium sized investor. We provide a high standard of professional, personalised, financial advice and investment management which is essential in the modern investment environment. For full details, in confidence and without obligation, simply complete and return the coupon.

MENZIES MERCANTILE 49 GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE LONDON W1H 7JH TEL 01-262 7520-9619

CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To: MENZIES MERCANTILE TEL 01-262 7520-9619 49 GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE LONDON W1H 7JH

Please send me further information on your Investment Management Service, without obligation.

Name, Address, County, Postcode, Telephone, Home, and Licensee fields.

FAMILY MONEY

'Roll up' fund for US Treasury Bills

If you are looking for a new home for your 'roll up' funds now they have been hauled into the tax net or you are just keen on a low risk investment with a reasonable return. There is a Luxembourg-based mutual fund specializing in US Treasury Bills, which could be just for you.

Extra interest. No strings.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester is still the only major national building society to offer a full 1% extra interest with no strings at all.

CHELTHENHAM GOLD 8.25% net 11.79% gross ON £1,000 OR MORE

CHELTHENHAM GOLD MONTHLY INTEREST 8.57% net 12.24% gross ON £5,000 OR MORE

NO TERM. NO NOTICE. NO PENALTIES.

To: C&G Building Society, PO Box 124, FREETPOST, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7PW

Full Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) Address Postcode

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

Tax subsidies Four-year plan has high rate of return

Investment advisor Richard Temple is refining his building society linked investment plan so lump sum investments can take advantage of enticing life assurance tax subsidies.

A lump sum of at least £2,500 is split into two. The bulk goes into a high yielding income bond which will fund annual payments for a 10-year building society linked savings plan.

The Inland Revenue will not allow the scheme to emphasize that the rate of return peaks after four years and a day - and investors are clearly better off if they withdraw after that period.

Using the plan to build up capital, £5,000 invested will build up to £10,192 in an ordinary building society account, whereas the same money invested in the R. J. Temple Building Society Plus Plan would grow to £12,778.

Estimated Cash Payout from £5,000 investment over 10 years

Table with 2 columns: Investment Type, Estimated Cash Payout. Includes Building Society Ordinary Account, 30 per cent taxpayer, 60 per cent taxpayer, etc.

*Not an estimate - guaranteed return. Figures compiled by R. J. Temple.

National insurance

Better-off come out worse in change

Next April's new National Insurance contributions are not, after all, going to mean a rise in the flat rate - only in what the better off have to pay.

As we predicted, the upper limit on contributions rises from £235 to £250 a week, so the man earning more than £12,220 a year is going to have to find another £1.35 a week extra, and his employer £1.71.

The self-employed have not been forgotten, either. The rise for a self-employed person with profits of around £13,000 a year works out at about £75. So, all in all, it is not as bad as it might have been.

Some people will have to pay less. At the moment, you do not start to pay National Insurance contributions until you earn £32.50 a week. Then you pay on everything up to, and above,

that. The new lower limit will be £34 a week. So someone now being paid, say, £33.99 will end up with about £2.90 more in his pocket. It does mean, of course, that anyone who pays no NI contributions runs the risk of not being eligible for state benefits if they need them.

Nevertheless, for someone earning that sort of money, £2.90 a week more is not to be laughed at. There is even a case for someone earning around the £34 a week mark taking a cut to bring pay to under that figure, even by a few pence.

Anyone who works for more than one employer, and keeps the pay from each to below this £34 figure, could save quite a bit of money. This is because pay from different employers is not added together when contributions are paid.

saving of almost £15 a week in contributions.

Married women who pay the small stamp and earn more than £235 a week will also be hit in April, although the maximum rise will be only 57p a week. The other side of the coin is that married women who earn up to £34 a week could save £1.25 because of the change in the lower earnings level.

The ever-increasing amount some married women on the small stamp pay does raise a wider question: is it worth paying out something for nothing?

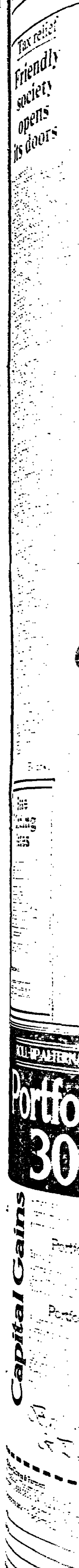
The new contribution levels will mean a married woman earning £250 a week, and on the small stamp, saving £9.62 a week. This is for nothing, as she cannot qualify for any state benefits or pension on these contributions. On the other hand, if she does want to start qualifying for state benefits, it could cost her £22.50 a week. The issue she has to face up to is: cash in hand now, or benefits later? Ian McDonald

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

1984 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement Issue certificates purchased in December 1978, 217.29 including bonus and supplement.

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week

Large table with multiple columns listing various unit trusts and their prices. Includes sections for Authorised Unit Trusts, Unit Trust Prices, and Insurance Bonds and Funds.



FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Tax relief Friendly society opens its doors

The tax benefits of investing in a friendly society are usually available only to those with dependants. But a new scheme from the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society...

It is known as Money Maker Capital, for those with a lump sum to invest, or Money Maker Savers, for those who can save regularly over a 10-year term.

Investments in friendly societies attract tax relief at the life assurance rate of 15 per cent on all premiums paid and the fund itself pays no tax...

The Mullie scheme, as it is known, offers an after-tax return of 13.5 per cent to a basic rate taxpayer, on what is effectively an investment in Northern Rock. The return is linked to building society rates...

Single people with dependants and married couples can apply to join any branch of Northern Rock. But single people without dependants will first have to join the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity...

Investors in the 10-year regular savings scheme have the option of monthly contributions of £9.75, after tax relief, or £18.70. There is no charge on joining (unlike most other friendly society schemes)...

The balance, after deduction of fees, goes straight into an account with Northern Rock. These regular savings schemes must be looked on as 10-year investments since, on early encashment, the friendly society is allowed to pay only a return of contributions.

The scheme is open to people between 16 and 69, resident in the United Kingdom, married, or single with dependants or members of the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity.

Lorna Bourke

Festive investment

Starting a wine cellar for Christmas and after

Christmas is an ideal time for starting a wine cellar - either for yourself or as a gift for a relative or friend.

Fortunately there are several schemes available which mean the donor does not have to incur the total cost, and which also cover the practical aspects such as correct storage.

The gift could be the first instalment of a regular monthly payment - a happy reminder of the 1983 Christmas for possibly years to come.

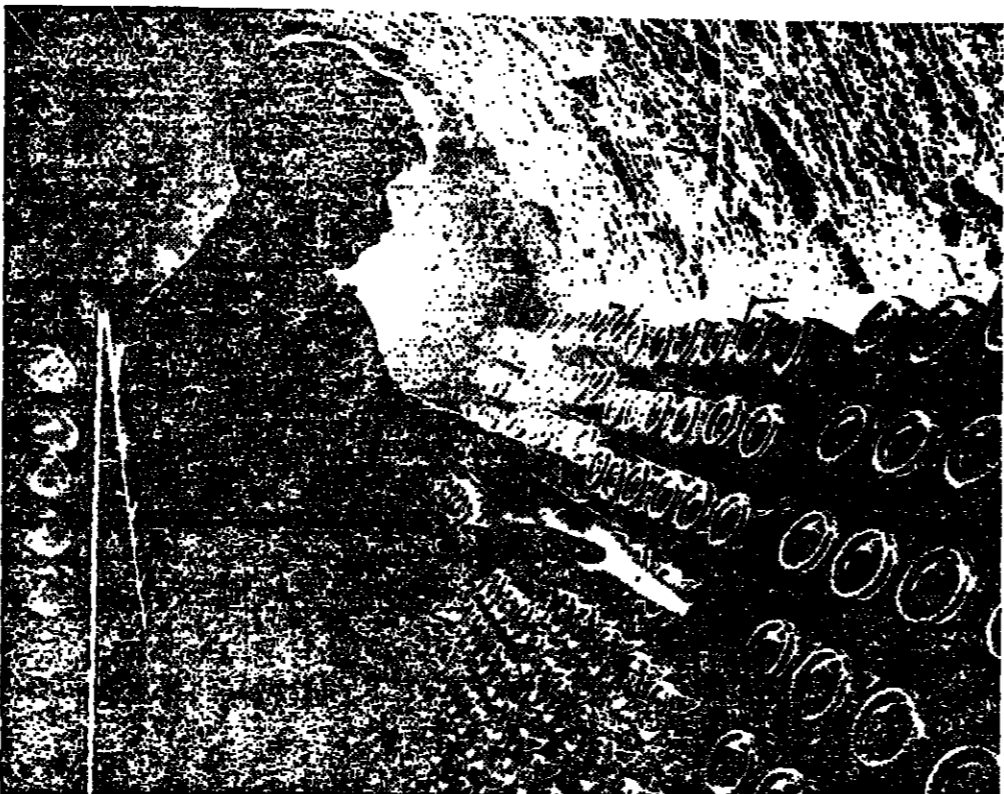
Balls Brothers (313 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9LQ) has two schemes, each costing £15 a month. Its Group Buying Plan allows you to purchase 24 mixed bottles of wine each year with delivery in June and December.

The current offer is of six bottles each of Chateau Luggnac 1975, St Amour 1982 and Zwitinger Himmelreich Spatlese 1979 and three bottles each of Meursault 1979 and Chablis Grand Cru Vaudeir.

Its Long Term Plan is for one annual distribution. The last wine offered was for 1982 Claret.

A linked wine investment and life assurance scheme is offered by Lloyd's Life Assurance and Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex CO1 1JA). The monthly sum is £30, half of which is invested in wine. Lay and Wheeler will arrange a cellar for each purchaser or you can have a choice from their extensive list. There is a 5 per cent discount on all wines, except for the opening offers and special offers.

Complementary storage is included for the first year and subsequently costs £2.76 per



Storing with love and care

dozen bottles, including VAT. A plus here is that insurance is on the replacement value, whereas many schemes only cover for the purchase costs.

Hiscox & Co (146 Upper Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 4AP) has a scheme with a minimum of £10 per month and sends a wine selection every quarter, which may be mixed. There is a small carriage charge beyond its normal delivery area.

Four tailor-made selections

are offered by Justerini and Brooks (61 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LZ and 39 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HN). They range from £15 to £62 monthly with discount for immediate payment.

Since this year's scheme started in July, if you join today, there is a choice of either doubling the monthly payment or paying one lump sum to cover the past six months and then at the monthly rate. Unit

One is composed of three Clarets and one dozen bottles each of a Rhine Kabinett and a Rhone.

The two top units offer the best investment potential, including such wines as Latour and Sandeman Vintage Port 1977. There is complementary storage in the early years but insurance only at the purchase value.

Conal Gregory

Bullion

Gold price revival boosts markets

Gold proved to be the main source of excitement in the unit trust performance table last month. The sharp recovery in the bullion price, from \$376 an ounce to over \$405 at one stage, saw the FT Gold Mines index jump by nearly a quarter.

Various explanations have been given for gold's return to favour. These range from the jewelry trade's need to restock after good pre-Christmas retail sales in America to the Heathrow robbery of three tonnes of the metal catching the market short.

Whatever the reason, trusts investing in the gold mining market put up a good showing in November. Britannia's Gold & General fund marked up an 18.9 per cent offer price increase, while its closest competitor, Target Gold, achieved a 15.9 per cent gain. The revival of the gold price was a welcome boost to the stock market in Australia, where the All Ordinaries index climbed more than 8 per cent to a record peak.

The stock market has been cheered by a number of factors: the recovery in industrial production, the improvement

in private capital investment, the marked slowing in wages growth and the easing of domestic interest rates. On top of this, there has been speculation that the Australian dollar might shortly be revalued.

Responding to all this good news, several unit trusts specializing in Australia notched up some strong performances in November. Stewart Australian led the contingent with a 17.2 per cent price jump. FIK Australia, which is managed by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank's merchant banking subsidiary in Melbourne, was the runner-up with a 15.1 per cent rise.

Elsewhere around the world, most stock markets registered gains last month. Continental Europe had some strong performers in the Dutch and French exchanges. This will certainly have helped the top performing European funds,

this year run by G. T. and Henderson.

Across the Atlantic, the Dow Jones industrial average adjusted for the strengthening dollar, was 6 per cent higher, ending the month just a little below its record level. Wall Street has been encouraged by a stream of good news covering the economy and prospects for corporate profits. Unfortunately, enthusiasm has waned slightly in recent days as the possibility of higher interest rates has again been discussed.

The best performance among the 60-strong list of unit trusts investing in the US came from Henderson American Recovery with a 40.6 per cent offer price increase. Equity & Law North America was second with a 9.1 per cent improvement.

Not all markets made headway in November. Both the Hongkong and Singapore indi-

cators were slightly lower. However, in both cases the market setbacks were more than offset by the recovery of the local currencies against sterling. Even so, Save & Prosper South East Asia and Gartmore Hongkong ended the month registering losses of around 2 per cent.

TOP PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS

Table with 2 columns: Unit Trust, Current value of £100 invest over 11 months to 1 December. Lists 10 top performing trusts including G.T. European, Abbey Japan, Henderson European, etc.

*Off-to-offer price basis - net income reinvested. Source: Planned Savings Magazine

Advertisement for Lawson Penny Share Fund. Includes text: 'LAWSON PENNY SHARE FUND', 'Poseidon, Polly Peck, London & Liverpool...', 'UNIT TRUSTS ARE NOW OFFERED AT A FIXED PRICE', and an application form.

"Roll-up" funds: The Prolific alternative with real growth potential

Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust aims for maximum capital growth through investment principally in Government securities. Growth of over 50% in the 2 years to 1st December 1983 proves that this objective is being met. And by producing a low level of income a tax-efficient return is being achieved.

Good prospects for Gilts The outlook for investment in the UK Gilt market is good.

There are several reasons for this. Firstly, the Government is firmly committed to keeping its borrowing in check - the Chancellor emphasised this in his recent autumn statement. Secondly, there is every prospect that inflation will be contained around the current rate of 5% throughout 1984. Thirdly, this combination should result in a sustained fall in interest rates.

Given these favourable conditions, we believe that high-interest longer-term stocks offer the

greatest potential for capital growth. Such stocks, therefore, currently make up the bulk of the Trust's investments.

Tax-efficient

As the chart shows, Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust has out-performed the FTA All-Gilts Index in capital growth terms by a considerable margin since it was launched on 1st June 1981. It is this emphasis on capital growth rather than income which makes the Trust a tax-efficient investment, particularly for higher-rate payers.

The current gross yield is 2.5% (8th December 1983).

1% discount for prompt investors

If you invest a lump sum of £1000 or more by 16th January 1984, you will receive a 1% discount in the form of additional units.

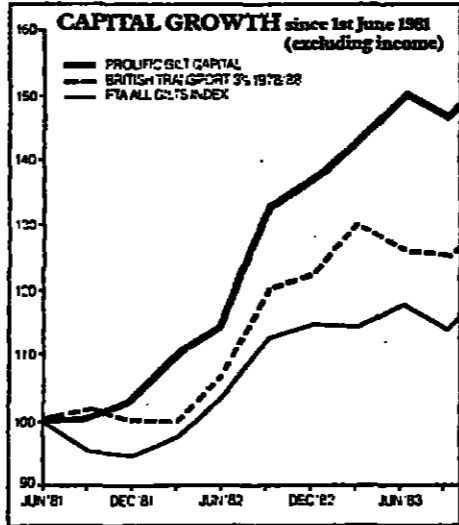
How to invest

To invest in Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust, simply complete the subscription form below and return it with your cheque. The minimum investment is £500.

Although we are optimistic about the prospects for this investment, please remember that the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up, particularly over the short term. For your guidance, the offer (buying) price of units on 8th December was 78.1p (x2).

Selling your units

You can sell your units back to the Managers on any business day at the bid (selling) price ruling on receipt of your instructions. Payment will usually be made within ten working days of receipt of your renounced certificate.



General Information Managers Prolific Unit Trusts, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS. Telephone: 01-247 7544. Trustee: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Prices and yield: Unit prices are calculated daily and both the prices and the yield are quoted each day in the national press. Income distribution dates 20th June and 20th December. Charge: An initial charge of 3.4% is included in the offer price of units. The annual charge is 4% plus VAT and is deducted

from the income of the Trust. The Managers have discretion to increase the charge to a maximum of 4% on 3 months' notice to unitholders.

Commission Payable to intermediaries. Rates are available on request.

Prolific Unit Trusts is the trading name of Provincial Life Investment Company Limited. Registered in England No. 959864. Registered Office: Strangeways, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BE.

Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust

Application form for Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust. Includes fields for Name, Address, Signature, and checkboxes for joint subscriptions and automatic reinvestment.

Base Lending Rates table listing interest rates for various banks and services like ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, etc.

Advertisement for Barlow Clowes & Partners Portfolio 30. Includes text: 'ROLL-UP ALTERNATIVES', 'Portfolio 30', 'Capital Gains', and contact information.

Large advertisement for Barlow Clowes & Partners 'Low coupon gilts? Do these give the greatest return to You?'. Includes text: 'Maybe, in certain circumstances. But the Barlow Clowes Gilt Monitor will provide a definite answer...', 'These are the Monitor's principal advantages:', and contact information.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Another fight for UBM?

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings begin Monday, Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

Hopes were growing last night that the battle for control of the UBM Group, may soon be on again. Shares of Norcross rebounded 6 1/2p to a new "high" of 149 1/2p, amid speculation that it had been approached for its 43.1 per cent stake after failing with its own £75m bid in October. Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust, sitting on about £400m in cash, is tipped as a possible buyer. A spokesman for Norcross commented: "It's just a market rumour. I can't comment on rumours". Shares of UBM held steady at 122p - just 6p short of the year's "high" - and only 3p below Norcross's 125p cash offer.

At this level, the group is valued at £72m - well within the range of somebody like Hanson Trust. Norcross's bid for UBM failed because it could not reach agreement with UBM's other big shareholders, including Colguy Holding, the private arm of Newarthill, with 9.5 per cent of the shares and Equity Capital for Industry with 10.2 per cent. Merchant banker Morgan Grenfell also holds a further 10 per cent of the equity on behalf

of its clients. However, it might prove a different story for Lord Hanson just fresh from his triumphs at UDS Group and currently holding 9.4 per cent of

Shares of engineer Christy Bros rose 1p to a new high of 34p as a mystery buyer appeared. Yesterday he bought 30,000 shares, taking his holding to 105,000, or just over 5 per cent. This has led to speculation among Christy's other big shareholders that a bid may be on the way. Clients of broker Simon & Coates own around 40 per cent. Security Growth 23 per cent and the Hanson Trust, Norcross's bid for UBM failed because it could not reach agreement with UBM's other big shareholders, including Colguy Holding, the private arm of Newarthill, with 9.5 per cent of the shares and Equity Capital for Industry with 10.2 per cent. Merchant banker Morgan Grenfell also holds a further 10 per cent of the equity on behalf

75p in gilts, with the Government broker experiencing little demand for the new tranches of stp stock announced earlier in this week.

Rio-Tinto Zinc has decided to withdraw its offer for BET's 5 per cent stake in the Maurean Field which came into production in September. Instead, BET has sold the stake to Century Power & Light, (a subsidiary of Imperial Continental Gas) and Ultramar, which between them, already own 15 per cent of the Maurean Field. IC Gas and Ultramar have agreed to the same terms as offered to RTZ, valuing BET's stake at £60m.

Shares of BET rose 3p to 273p on the news. Lord Westwood's GEC slipped 2p to 193p after confirmation that it was one of a number of companies approached by the Government to put cash into Inmos, the state controlled micro-chip business. GEC said it could take a

performance well over the next six months.

Two more newcomers joined the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday, bringing this week's total to four. Kenyon Securities, the funeral services group, opened at 168p, compared to the placing price of 139p. The shares ended the day at 170p - a premium of 31p.

Brokers Williams de Broe placed the 300,000 shares, about 22 per cent of the issued total. At this level, Kenyon is valued at £2.5m. But High-Point Services, the professional advisory, management and financial services group, made a disappointing debut after broker Coni Gilbert & Sankey placed 994,000 shares at 137p. They opened at 139p and closed at 140p - a premium of 3p.

Shares of Fitch & Co., the interior design consultant, slipped 5p to 255p after Mr Ron Baker, managing director, announced his intention to resign for personal reasons. Mr Rodney Fitch, the chairman, and fellow director Mr Crispin Tweddell, will become joint managing directors.

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INVESTORS NOTEBOOK THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY DAY

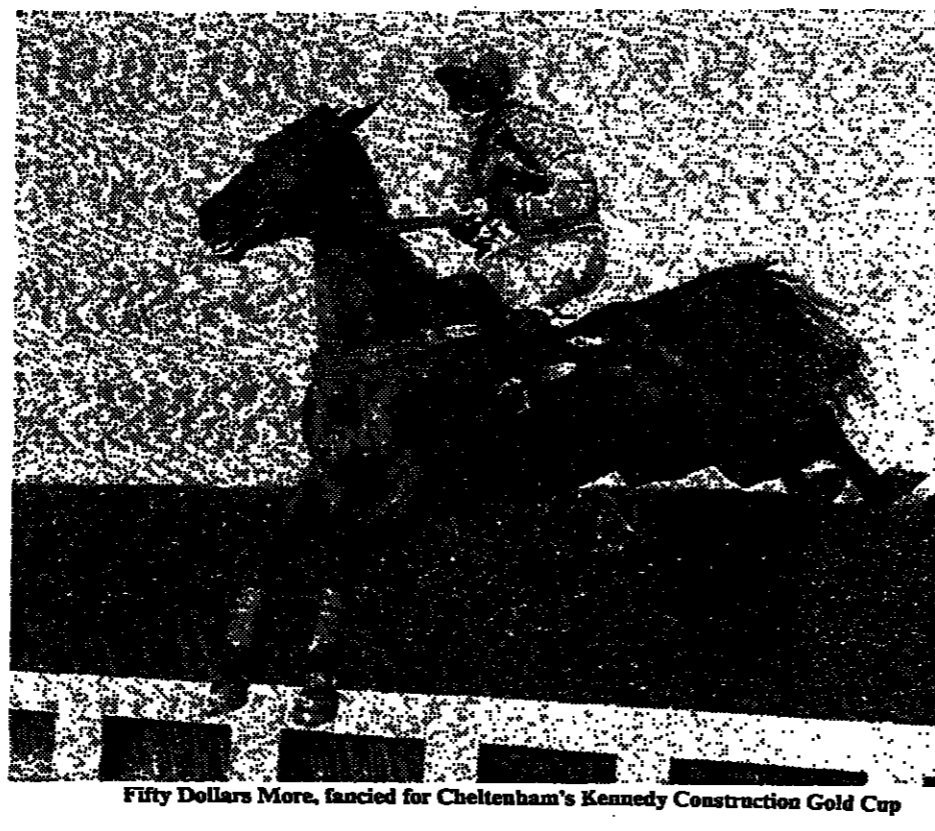
Large table containing various market data, including shipping, mines, oil, property, and plantations.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Europe a tale with gre' and 'Baker pay Stoke fa'.

Handwritten text at the bottom center: 'مكتبة من الأصل'

Scales to tilt in favour of Fifty Dollars More

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent Following his exceptionally good effort against that talented steeplechaser Wayward Lad at Huntingdon last month, Fifty Dollars More can give the trainer Fred Winter his second successive success in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup at Cheltenham today.



Fifty Dollars More, fancied for Cheltenham's Kennedy Construction Gold Cup

Hurdle. Mrs Percy Rimell, his trainer, is relying instead upon his pacemaker, Migrator and Very Promising, who lived up to his name last season with a string of victories. Without the benefit of a previous race, Very Promising may not be able to give 4lb to Amarach who so nearly beat Dawn Run at Ascot.

Sangster to sponsor the Sussex Stakes

By Michael Seely Robert Sangster is putting up £100,000 for next year's Sussex Stakes and Mary, the chairman of Goodwood, said yesterday: "The first running of the Swettenham Stud Sussex Stakes will take place at Goodwood on Wednesday, August 10, 1984, during the five-day meeting. It will carry £150,000 in added money and will become the third richest race in Europe, as far as added money is concerned.

A new order for Cosworth

The Ford Motor Company and Cosworth Engineering, whose engines dominated Grand Prix racing from 1967 until their recent defeat by the turbos, have joined forces in the development of a "next generation" Formula One engine and certain associated power units. The announcement, which was made in Detroit yesterday by Philip Caldwell, chairman of Ford, coincides with the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Cosworth team. Caldwell and Mike Costin and Derek Warwick have formed an association which has already brought 155 Grand Prix victories, 13 drivers' and 10 constructors' championships, two Le Mans wins and six successes in the Indianapolis 500.

Cheltenham

Going: good. Totals: Double 1.40, 2.50, Treble 1.5, 2.15, 3.25 (Television (BBC 1) 1.5, 1.40 and 2.15 races)

- 12.30 GEORGE STEVENS CHASE (handicap; £3,908; 2m) (10 runners) 104 3-20122 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 105 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 106 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 107 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 108 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

2.15 KENNEDY CONSTRUCTION GOLD CUP CHASE (handicap; £12,000; 2m 4f) (19)

- 402 30120 LITTLE BAY (D) (Mrs S. Cawston) 8-11-1 R. Lyle 403 1-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead 404 2-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead 405 2-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead 406 2-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead

Nottingham

- Going: (HVV) good; chase: good to firm. (Television (ITV) 1.45, 2.20 and 2.50 races) 12.45 BRADDEN HURDLE (Div I; novices; £414; 2m) (18 runners) 101 4-21204 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 102 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 103 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 104 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

1.40 TIA MARIA BULA HURDLE (Grade II; £10,196; 2m) (10)

- 1201 121111 VERY PROMISING (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 1202 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 1203 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 1204 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

2.50 FRED WINTON CHASE (novices; £4,006; 3m 1f) (9)

- 501 410-111 A KISSING (Mrs J. Brook) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead 502 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 503 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 504 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

1.15 TON UP HURDLE (selling; £811; 2m) (12)

- 101 4-21204 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 102 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 103 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 104 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

Catterick Bridge

- 12.45 HUDDERSFIELD CHASE (handicap; £987; 2m) (8 runners) 104 3-20122 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 105 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 106 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 107 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

Cheltenham selections

- 12.30 Walnut Wonder. 1.5 Absorak. 1.40 Amarah. 2.15 Fifty Dollars More. 2.50 A Kissman. 3.25 Boardmans Crown.

Trainers' preference

- The following is a list of preferences for those horses declared at more than one of today's meetings: Imperial Black (1.45 Catterick); Statesmanship, Society Boy (1.5 Cheltenham); Leney Dual (2.50 Nottingham); Nestor (3.30 Lingfield).

Cheltenham results

- 12.30 BRISTOL HURDLE (Div I; novices; £1,000; 2m) (10 runners) 104 3-20122 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 105 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 106 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 107 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

2.45 VAUX BREWERIES CHASE (qualifier novices; £1,308; 3m 300yd) (8)

- 402 30120 LITTLE BAY (D) (Mrs S. Cawston) 8-11-1 R. Lyle 403 1-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead 404 2-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead 405 2-11-11 BEE STRING (D) (Mrs J. M. Parnell) 7-11-11 S. Moorhead

Lingfield Park

- Going: hurdles: good to soft, chase: good. Total double: 1.30, 2.30, Treble: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 12.30 DICK FRANCIS CHASE (Div I; novices; £2,039; 2m) (14 runners) 101 4-21204 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 102 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 103 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 104 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

1.45 W & H HECTOR CHRISTIE CHASE (handicap; £2,397; 3m 300yd) (3)

- 104 3-20122 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 105 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 106 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 107 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

Catterick selections

- 12.45 Abersing. 1.15 D'No. 1.45 Imperial Black. 2.15 Creswell Falls. 2.45 Planetman. 3.15 Prince Concord.

Devon and Exeter

- 12.15 DEVONSHIRE CHASE (handicap; £2,411; 3m) (10 runners) 104 3-20122 WESTERN ROSE (D) (Mrs M Parnell) 11-11-7 S. Moorhead 105 1-10-10 BOLD YEOHAN (D) (Mrs H Alward) 7-10-9 S. Double 106 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead 107 4-21204 RESTLESS SHOT (D) (R. Hinchinson) 7-10-10 S. Moorhead

Saturday

Television and radio programmes

Sunday

BBC 1
9.30 In High Private Eye. Catch series about a try...

TV-am
6.25 Good Morning Britain, with Michael and Mary Parkinson...

ITV/LONDON
9.25 LWT Information. 9.30 Sesame Street. Learning made fun with the Muppets...

BBC 2
10.10 Open University. Until 11.25. 1.40 Film: Fra Diavolo (1953) starring Laurel and Hardy...

CHANNEL 4
2.00 Coping The first of six documentaries about problems that face the average family...

BBC 1
9.00 Heads and Tails. For the very young (7) 9.15 Sunday Worship. Jesus - His Life and Teaching...

BBC 2
10.10 Open University until 12.30 1.05 Horizon: Cancer - the Pattern in the Plane (7)

CHANNEL 4
1.20 Irish Angle. The Irish television news as seen by the Irish television networks...

Radio 4
6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News: Farming Today. 6.55 Weather: Travel. 7.00 News: 7.10 Today's Papers...

Radio 3
7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.05 News: International Assignment. 8.30 News: International Assignment...

Radio 1
6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News: Morning Has Broken. 6.55 Weather: Travel. 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers...

Radio 2
6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News: Morning Has Broken. 6.55 Weather: Travel. 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers...

Radio 4
6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News: Morning Has Broken. 6.55 Weather: Travel. 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers...

Radio 3
6.25 Weather. 6.30 News: The English Baroque. 6.55 Weather: Records. 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers...

Radio 1
6.00 News: Mark Page. 6.05 News: Mark Page. 6.10 News: Mark Page. 6.15 News: Mark Page...

Radio 2
6.00 News: Mark Page. 6.05 News: Mark Page. 6.10 News: Mark Page. 6.15 News: Mark Page...

BBC 1
Wales: 5.15pm-5.20 Sports News Wales. 5.20pm-5.25 Sports News Wales...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
BORDER As London except: 9.25am Survival. 10.00am Tarran. 5.05pm-6.00pm Knight Rider...

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am Morning News. 10.00am Tarran. 5.05pm-6.00pm Knight Rider...

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25am Morning News. 10.00am Tarran. 5.05pm-6.00pm Knight Rider...

WILTSHIRE As London except: 9.25am Morning News. 10.00am Tarran. 5.05pm-6.00pm Knight Rider...

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PLO say Israel is blocking exodus

From Our Own Correspondent Beirut

A short and largely ineffective bombardment of Palestinian positions in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli by Israel gunboats prompted Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization officials to claim yesterday that Israel wanted to prevent the evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas.



Robert Stephens as Euphoria

British pantomime returns

By David Hewson

Two years ago the traditional British pantomime was pronounced dead. Now the painted dames, sackcloth horses, and leggy principal boys are sufficiently back in fashion to give their customary reply - "oh no, it isn't".

Four pantomimes, if you count Peter Pan, are being presented in the West End of London during the holiday, more than any Christmas for a decade.

Last year, nearly a quarter of a million theatregoers flocked to the West End for Christmas. Bookings for the period are running so high that most of the shows are expected to sell out in the next few days.

The flourishing pantomime business is reflected in the provinces where the Christmas show is frequently the one profitable highlight in the theatrical year.

Advance bookings for the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, in the East End of London, had reached 25,000 by the end of July, and stood at 38,000 by the beginning of this month. Local firms, schools and unions have bought whole houses. Mr Mark Borkowski, the theatre's spokesman, said this week: "Frankly, I am having trouble fitting the press in."

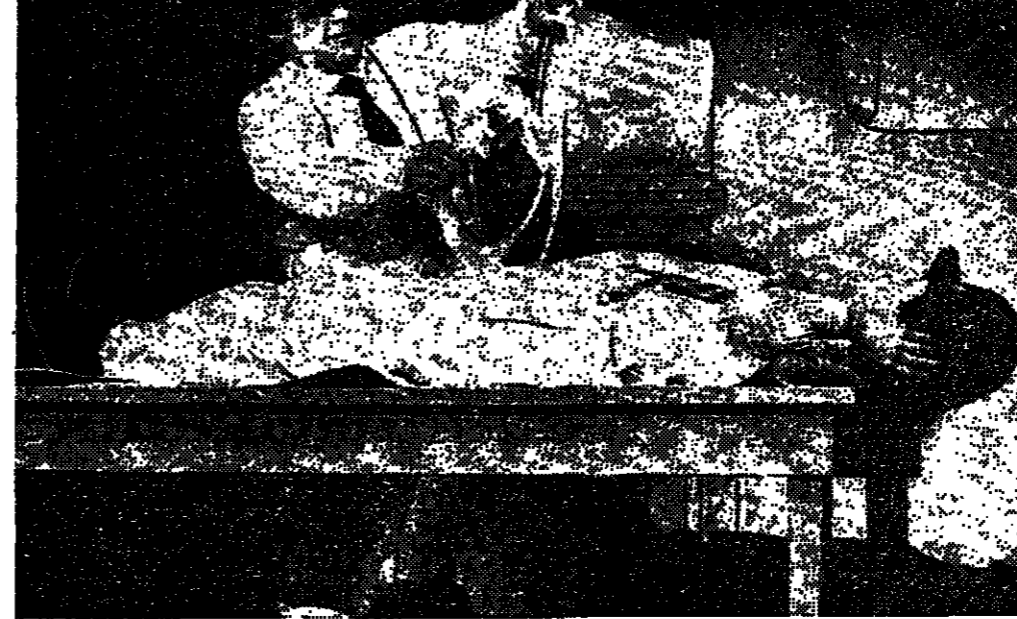
One of Britain's leading pantomime impresarios, Mr Paul Elliott, is promoting 13 shows from London to Belfast, and two abroad, in Canada and Zimbabwe.

The National Theatre has entered the pantomime business for the first time this year with Cinderella. Its director, Mr Bill Bryden, said that the production, which opens on December 15, will have its quota of ugly sisters and standard pantomime jokes.

panto for years but have only just got around to it. I just think it is a good opportunity to get back to some of the kind of values and performances that aren't associated with television or modern influences, to try to tell a fairy story. It is innocent, simple entertainment."

The National has searched Edwardian and Victorian archaism to come up with authentic scripts and the pantomime will not contain topical jokes, unlike many of its rivals and the popular Royal Shakespeare Company adult pantomime-cum-musical Poppy at the Adelphi.

Whether the box office promises of the rash of new shows will be kept through January is something which will continue to give impresarios sleepless nights. But for the moment, they are happy to welcome the successful pantomime back into the theatrical fold.



The 'slosh scene': Anthony Trent and Stephen Petcher

Prince Charming: Susan Fleetwood

Derek Newark as Gloria

Weekend decision faced by NGA

(Continued from page 1)

It resumed picketing of his Winwick Quay plant. "We have the law to defend us."

Times Newspapers, publishers of The Times and The Sunday Times and News Group Newspapers, publishers of The Sun and the News of the World were yesterday granted interlocutory injunctions restraining the NGA from inducing or persuading employees to break their contracts of employment. The orders were made by Mr Justice Cantley in the High Court in London. Other Fleet Street newspaper publishers were granted similar injunctions last week.

Mr Wade said last night that the Messenger Group had rejected his union's attempt to solve the dispute through negotiation. "Mr Shah, in taking this step, completely ignored and rejected the NGA's willingness to talk day and night to reach a negotiated settlement and to continue a truce for another seven days."

"His actions show that a maverick employer like Mr Shah can use the Government's employment legislation against NGA members to depress their wages and employment conditions, victimize them and at the same time destroy the union."

Peace talks under the auspices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service broke down early yesterday after four days. The main sticking point was the union's insistence on a closed shop for all Mr Shah's print workers.

Asked if there had been any significant shifts, Mr Shah said: "Not really. We have given on things and we have given on things, but we have always got back to the principle of the closed shop and there is no easy solution to that."

The Institute of Directors, which has reportedly been advising Mr Shah, accused the NGA of failing to negotiate in good faith. Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the institute called on the TUC to restrain the union from further unlawful action.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions South Yorkshire Open Art Exhibition, Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire: 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Jan 8).

Crossword puzzle solutions for puzzles 16,300 and 16,305.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,306. A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

- ACROSS 1 I take Peter's pills to become blasé (12).
- DOWN 1 Bishop is still extant, presumably (7).

exhibition looking at conservation of historic artefacts, James Dun's House, 61 School Hill, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

To the Glory of God - an exhibition of stained glass designs and windows, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Library Street, Blackburn; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 6pm.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,300 SOLUTION OF PUZZLE NO 16,305

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,306 A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

- ACROSS 1 I take Peter's pills to become blasé (12).
- DOWN 1 Bishop is still extant, presumably (7).

Sat 9.30 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

Home Sweet Home: an exhibition of Victorian Home Life, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth; Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Jan 26).

Last chance to see West Gloucestershire Art Society exhibition, Gloucester City Museum, Brunswick Road, Gloucester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Christmas carols Lincoln Choral Christmas Concert, Lincoln Minster, 7.30pm.

Music Organ recital by Michael Smith, 1.10, and Concert by Huddersfield Choral Society, 7.30, St David's Hall, Cardiff.

General Bath Postcard and Stamp Fair, Mansvers Street, Church Hill, Bath, 10 to 4.30.

Christmas carols

Today Lincoln Choral Christmas Concert, Lincoln Minster, 7.30pm.

Tomorrow Christmas Carol Concert, St Mary's Church, Bampton, Oxfordshire, 7.30pm.

In the garden Birds are desperate in frosty times so if they can't find food they will turn to us.

The papers The Washington Post says that the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva "gives no assistance at all regarding the stability of next year's oil prices."

The pound Bank of England says that the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva "gives no assistance at all regarding the stability of next year's oil prices."

Roads

Midlands: A429: Roadworks on Wellesbourne - Stow road at Halford, Warwickshire. A38: Two-way traffic on one carriageway on Burton Upon Trent bypass.

Anniversaries Cesar Franck was born at Liège, 1822. Deaths: Alfred Nobel, industrialist and founder of the Nobel prizes, San Remo, 1896.

Charity card shops For a list of shops run by the Charity Christmas Card Council, which represents 80 national charities, write to the CCC, 49 Weymouth Street, London WC1N 3JG.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and USA.

Around Britain

Table showing weather forecasts for various regions including Scotland, North West, Yorkshire, East of England, London, South East, and Wales.

Weather

A cold northerly airstream will cover Britain. Most districts will have wintry showers, chiefly in northern and eastern districts where icy roads and drifting of any snow will occur in strong winds.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, E, W Midlands: Sunny and clear periods, perhaps a few wintry showers; frost and icy roads later; winds NW fresh to strong decreasing later; max temp 3 to 5C (37 to 41F).

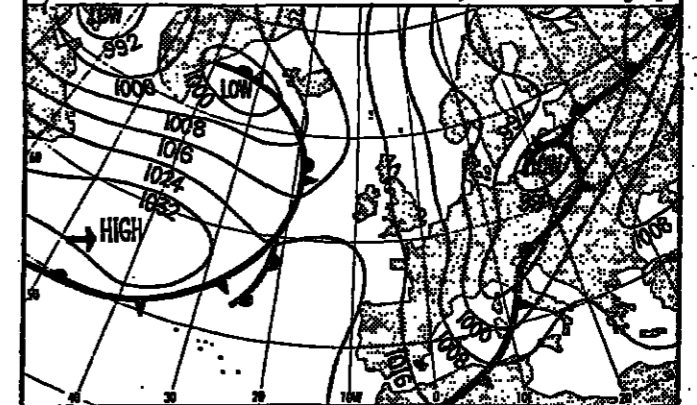
Lighting-up time

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Cardiff.

High tides

Table showing high tide times for various locations including London, Liverpool, Cardiff, and Swansea.

Weather



London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 10C (50F); humidity: 6 pm, 95 per cent. Rain: 2.4 to 6 pm, 0.27 in. Sun: 6.45 to 8 pm, 1.2 in. Mist: 4.45 to 5.45 pm, 6 pm, 3.52 to 4.52 pm, 1.00 m (3.28 ft).

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Temby 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Lirwick 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Bridlington 2.54 in; highest sunshine: Cromer 2.3 hrs.

High tides

Table showing high tide times for various locations including London, Liverpool, Cardiff, and Swansea.

Abroad

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations including Alcala, Copenhagen, Madrid, Moscow, and New York.

مكتبة من الأصل